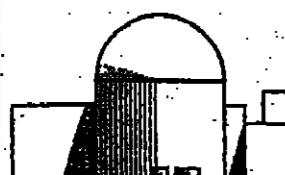


Power positive  
Sizewell, Britain's  
longest public inquiry  
- the issues, the  
cost



Expert choice  
Cocktails and  
canapés for  
Christmas

Fight night  
Barry McGuigan  
prepares to defend  
his British and  
European boxing title

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by three winners yesterday. Mr Y. Lahav of London NW6, Mr V. Klovra of Stretford, Birmingham and a Kent man who wishes to remain anonymous each received £666.66. Portfolio list page 16; how to play, information service, back page.

Benefit  
strike  
nears end

Striking social security staff at the DHSS computer centre in Newcastle have voted to negotiate an end to the strike. Talks are expected to begin this week, with a return to work in the new year.

Page 2

**Lawson refuses**  
Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday refused to see an all-party delegation of MPs and pop musicians who wanted to appeal to him to contribute the VAT revenue from the Band Aid record "Do They Know It's Christmas" to the Ethiopian famine relief fund.

Letters, page 13

**Rajiv favoured**  
The party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi will win a landslide in India's general election, taking 366 of 511 constituencies, according to an opinion poll for the magazine *India Today*.

Gandhi's government, page 6

**£250,000 rise**  
Mr Richard Giordano, chairman of BOC may have become Britain's highest paid executive for the fifth year running with a £77,600 salary after a £250,000 pay rise.

Page 17

**Tory warning**  
Conservative opponents of the civil aviation Bill have given a warning that unless it is withdrawn, the Government will face a long campaign to block it. Stansted protest, page 4

**Best jailed**  
George Best, the former footballer, lost his appeal against a three-month jail sentence imposed for drink-driving and assaulting a policeman.

Page 3

**Cars snowbound**  
Dozens of motorists were stranded on the A66 between Penrith and Scotch Corner, as heavy snowfalls affected parts of northern England.

**Indian summer**  
England ended the leanest spell in their history when their spin bowlers inspired an eight-wicket victory over India in the second Test at Delhi.

Page 22

**Leader page 13**  
Letters: On Stansted, from Sir Adam Thomson, and Mr J. Boyes, from Mr J. G. Lee, and Mr M. White  
Leading articles: Indian election, Mr Corbyn's gaffe; Arts Council grants  
Features, pages 8, 10-12  
Squeeze on the dairy industry; Bernard Levin on the limits to Chinese reform; Roger Scruton defends the body impolitic; Fashion from Hong Kong; File on children's suffering.

**Computer Horizons, page 21**  
A review of the year; nix to Unix? what Santa's giving to Americans  
Classified pages 25, 26  
Legal appointments  
Obituaries, page 14  
Dr Frank H. Spedding, Mr John Pearce

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## Gorbachov links arms curb to Star Wars ban

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A warning by the Soviet Union that there could be no hope of a nuclear arms deal unless the West agreed to ban weapons in space was given by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the visitor from the Kremlin, in London yesterday.

The Soviet leadership attached "serious importance" to the forthcoming new series of arms talks with the United States in Geneva, and would seek "radical" solutions in working for a complete ban on nuclear missiles.

"But I would like to stress that in present circumstances it is especially important to avert the transfer of the arms race to outer space. If it is not done it would be unreal to hope to stop the nuclear arms race," he said.

Mr Gorbachov, a Politburo member, was speaking amid the Tudor splendour of Hampton Court at a luncheon hosted by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, after talks between the two men at which Russian concern over President Reagan's so-called "Star Wars" programme had been a recurring theme.

He made clear that the Russians did not accept President Reagan's distinction between offensive missiles, which were designed to hit Moscow, and defensive missiles aimed only at incoming weapons from the other side in wartime.

He made no attempt to play upon Britain's own scepticism by trying to persuade the Government to intercede with the White House, as many had predicted he would.

Sir Geoffrey raised four

specific human rights cases, including that of the Nobel prize winner Dr Andrei Sakharov, and pleaded for more people from Russia to be allowed to join their relatives abroad.

But with Mrs Margaret Thatcher due to meet Mr Reagan at his Camp David retreat on Saturday, he was clearly taking the opportunity to remind the Americans that the order of Russian priorities had not changed.

Mr Gorbachov, who at 53 is

being tipped as the man most

likely to succeed in time the ageing President Chernenko, also reminded Sir Geoffrey that

they were reunited for the first time in over 40 years.

Sir Geoffrey was grateful to the Soviet authorities for making this possible. "But I ask myself why this number could not be multiplied by hundreds or thousands. I hope that one of the fruits of better relations will be a considerable increase in the number of contacts between ordinary individuals as well as politicians and diplomats."

Referring to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, he described it as a "good and important document". It had brought policy down to a human level, and had made clear that human rights, economic relations, security and the free flow of information were all part of the same picture - a picture that focused on the rights and needs of the individual. Policy without people was an empty shell, Sir Geoffrey remarked.

So the visit would seem to be going according to plan, and even better than British diplomats had hoped.

Scientists' warning, page 5

BL hopes, page 17

the Soviet Union wanted the British and French nuclear deterrents counted in any missile agreement.

But yesterday's meeting, for all their disagreements, including Afghan and human rights issues, was "friendly, constructive and businesslike" according to the sources. It went on for two hours and 40 minutes, much longer than expected.

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## Ford peace formula rejected by union chiefs

By David Felton  
Labour Correspondent

Ford, which has lost more than four weeks of car production because of a strike by 270 machinists, will not be able to resume car building for at least another two weeks after shop stewards yesterday rejected a peace formula to end the dispute.

The decision will be reported to mass meetings tomorrow and union officials may meet the company later but, because the company closed on Thursday for the Christmas break, the strike is likely to continue for some time.

The cost of the stoppage has been put at £219 million and production of 38,000 cars has been lost, about 8,500 manual workers have been laid off. The strike has also meant the annual pay award, estimated to be worth about 9 per cent, has not been paid to the company's 40,500 hourly paid employees.

The union has asked for an independent review of the grading claim with assessors approved by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service. The company offered a review by two senior Ford managers, with an independent chairman and overseen by a union representative.

General Motors sales in Britain of Vauxhall and Opel cars will reach an all-time record this year. The company will challenge Austin Rover for second place to Ford's market leadership next year.

More than 282,000 cars would be sold this year, representing 16 per cent of the total car market.

### The miners' strike

## NUM to contest rule change tomorrow

By Craig Seton

The National Union of Mineworkers goes to the High Court tomorrow in an attempt to prevent working Nottinghamshire miners voting for a rule change which would end their subordination to the union's national executive.

The union's court action comes only 24 hours before a meeting of the Nottinghamshire area council in Mansfield at which mandated delegates are expected to approve the rule change by more than the required two-thirds majority. At least 28 of the 31 branches in the coalfield have voted in favour of the change.

The NUM case will be that the Nottinghamshire area is not entitled to remove Rule 30, which states that where there is a conflict between area rules and national rules "the rules of the national union shall apply".

The NUM case is being supported in court by two Nottinghamshire miners, Mr Geoffrey Spencer, who returned to work some months ago but is now off sick, and Mr Jim Down, a striking miner. Both are from Clipstone Colliery, near Mansfield.

The move to change the rules in Nottinghamshire, where the vast majority of 30,000 miners are working, came after fears that moderate officials and members could face harsh disciplinary action by the National executive for abandoning the strike.

It has been condemned by Mr Peter Heathfield, the NUM general secretary and by Mr Henry Richardson, the Nottinghamshire secretary, who said it would be seen as an attempt to form a breakaway union "by the back door".

But members of the Nottinghamshire executive intend to contest tomorrow's High Court action. One said: "We are ready to take whatever they can throw at us."

Less clear-cut on Thursday will be a decision on the future of the miners' overtime ban in Nottinghamshire. Moves to

## Benefits strike ends, but pensioners must wait for cash

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The remaining 350 striking computer staff at offices of the Department of Health and Social Security in the Northeast voted to negotiate a return to work at a rancorous meeting in Newcastle-upon-Tyne yesterday.

Negotiations to end the seven and a half month long dispute, which has cost the government at least £85 million, are expected to begin this week, with a return to work in the new year.

The decision to end the strike, which has affected payments to millions of recipients of pensions, child benefit and other social security payments, came after the executive of the Civil and Public Services Association decided that there was no support for extending the action.

A unanimous vote of no confidence was passed in the executive at yesterday's mass meeting, and Mr Alistair Graham, the union's general secretary, was heckled and called a Judas as he left. The strikers refused to let executive members and officials address the meeting.

Mr Barry Fuge, militant chairman of the Newcastle branch, said he and others would be working to ensure that Mr Graham was not re-elected.

Mr Graham said that he believed the strikers had been made a reasonable offer over changes in shift working that

### A woman's place is in the House

By Anthony Bevins  
Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock believes that about half of the MPs at Westminster should be women, and he wants the Labour Party to accelerate the process under which there will be a larger number of women and the introduction of black MPs to the Opposition benches.

The Labour leader says in an interview on *Thames Television's Hot Seat* tonight: "There won't be enough women MPs until it's something like half the House of Commons, and we are spending a great deal of time in thinking of ways in which we can actually increase the number."

"I would like to see more black MPs. I think that the time has long been due when the ethnic minority communities should be represented by some of their number in the House of Commons. It will come in any case, I would just like to accelerate the process somehow. But it has beaten a lot of good minds who try to think of ways in which to ensure that there are a larger number of women and larger number of black people."

Mr Kinnock also says that he admires Mrs Thatcher for becoming, as a woman, the head of government. "I think that's a cause for admiration," he says.

There are 25 women MPs in the Commons, out of 650 members.

### Environmental cooperation keynote of talks

By John Young

Environment ministers from six of the world's leading industrial nations met in London yesterday for what was described as an informal meeting to discuss greater cooperation on environmental and economic policies.

Ministers from Britain, the United States, Canada, Japan, West Germany and Italy discussed topics including the disaster at Bhopal in India and problems over the transfer of technology or hazardous chemicals to developing countries.

Other topics were acid deposition, dangers to the stratospheric ozone layer, the effect on climate of rising levels of carbon dioxide, and the management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for refusing to give a firm target for acid rain reduction. France did not attend the meeting. Mr Jenkins said President Mitterrand believed matters of particular concern to the seven countries could only be discussed at head of state level but France's absence had been regretted.

## More cash for heart transplant programme

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Extra cash for heart and liver transplants was announced yesterday by the Government in allocations that should safeguard the heart transplant programme until April 1986.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said: Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire and Harefield Hospital in Middlesex would each receive another £150,000 this year on top of the £218,000 they have each already received for 1984.

Next year each hospital's allocation is to be roughly doubled to £300,000. The future of the heart transplant programme after that date will depend on an assessment of the costs and benefits of heart transplantation.

A three year study carried out at Brunel University has just been delivered to ministers. It is believed to show that costs are falling and life expectancy improving. The report, to be published in the new year, has been referred to the Standing Medical Advisory Committee and the Transplant Advisory Panel for comment, but Department of Health officials say its conclusions "seem favourable".

Announcing the allocations, Mr Clarke said extra money had been made available this year "because of the increase in the number of patients being referred for heart transplantation and the improved availability of donor hearts".

So far this year, according to Department of Health figures, 116 heart transplants have been carried out at the two hospitals, compared to 54 last year but both hospitals had run short of funds. Decisions on funding heart transplantation after April 1986 would "depend upon our deliberations on the place of heart transplantation in the NHS in the longer term", Mr Clarke said.

In this financial year £198,000 is being given to the paediatric liver transplant unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Where Ben Hardwick aged two, had a liver transplant earlier this year. The money will keep going at least for the time being, an intensive care room for children who receive liver transplants which viewers' of BBC's *That's Life* raised £100,000 to equip.

The Department of Health said the decision would mean nine children aged under 16 should receive liver transplants in the current financial year. The future of liver transplants is being considered by the Supra-Regional Services Advisory Group.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mr Terry Waite, with Mrs Pat Plummer and her children (from left to right) Ross, Catherine and Christopher. (Photograph: Bill Warkurst).

## Move to help Britons in Libya

By Richard Dowden

The Foreign Office said Mr Waite had been briefed, but that he was not carrying any message from the Government to Colonel Gaddafi.

Mr Waite, who secured the release of British and Iranian Anglicans in Iran in 1980, yesterday met the relatives of three of the four Britons held in Libya and was given letters and presents to take to the men.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, also spoke with the relatives and told them he fully supported Mr. Waite's visit.

But Mrs Pat Plummer, one of the relatives, asked: "If the church can send someone to try and get the men back, why can't the Government send someone too?"

Her husband, Robin, a British Telecom technician, was arrested in April when he made a U-turn in his car in front of a university. He has not yet been charged.

Mrs Carol Russell, the wife

of Alan Russell, a teacher arrested in May, said she had asked the Foreign Office for financial assistance to visit her husband.

She had very little to live on and two of her four children were still at home.

The Foreign Office refused, but she was given some money by the Church of England to fly out to see her husband.

Mr Russell is due to appear in court again this Thursday facing charges of espionage.

The four men are still kept in a house together although Mr. Malcolm Anderson and Mr. Russell, have been charged. Yesterday Mrs Pat Plummer, Mrs Russell and Miss Mary Berdinner, the sister of Michael Berdinner, the fourth Briton detained, brought letters and presents for the men to Lambeth Palace to give to Mr. Waite.

Vatican's Libyans, *Today*, photograph page 5.

### Tories fare worst in local polls

By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government Correspondent

Conservatives fared worse than the other main parties in council by-elections in Britain over the past six months, according to a survey to be published in the *Local Government Chronicle* on Friday.

The survey said to be the most complete available, is based on figures sent by local returning officers to staff at the department of social and political studies in Plymouth Polytechnic.

The results suggest that the trend set in the English and Scottish council elections in May has continued throughout Britain. The Liberals made the largest number of gains.

Independent councillors continued to be replaced by successors with party labels and the Social Democrats increased their small number of councillors. Results from the beginning of June to December 6 produced a net loss of 38 seats for the Conservatives and net gains of 12 and 26 for Labour and Liberals respectively.

Last month the Liberals gained a seat from Labour on Liverpool City Council and one from the Conservatives on Surrey County Council.

The Liberals continue to reinforce the point that where local parties are prepared to campaign hard in specific localities, there are seats to be won, the survey report says.

### UK refuses to collect dairy fines

The Government will defy the EEC by refusing to collect fines imposed on British dairy farmers who have exceeded their 1984 milk quotas.

It was given the task of collecting more than £1.5 million in fines from British producers who have not reduced production.

The Prime Minister took the decision to delay payments indefinitely because she and her Cabinet colleagues were not satisfied that other EEC countries were serious in their efforts to cut dairy production.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, made it clear yesterday that the fines have not been collected and no attempt will be made to gather the money until the Government is convinced that the scheme is being operated in the same way throughout Europe.

Mr Malcolm Stewart, publicity spokesman for the Dyfed Action Group of Welsh dairy farmers, has been expelled because of his opposition to its involvement with the Welsh nationalist party, Plaid Cymru (John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, writes).

The group has been at the forefront of protest against the imposition of EEC milk quotas and sent delegations to several of this year's agricultural shows. It has also mounted barricades at ports, intended to prevent the import of foreign dairy products.

Dairy squeeze, page 12

## Derbyshire police end anti-drink campaign

The police force in Derbyshire has abandoned its Christmas campaign against drinking and driving in favour of a policy of "must the motorist" (Craig Seton writes).

Derbyshire was the first force to announce special patrols in 1978 and other forces followed. In the previous year 11 people had died on the county's roads, most of them in accidents in which drinking had played a part.

There have been no Christmas fatalities in the county for the past two years and last year only 48 motorists out of 1,200 stopped were prosecuted for drink-driving offences.

• Lancashire police have spurned the Ministry of Transport's low-profile anti-drink and drive campaign. Instead of advising drivers to "Stay low" they are distributing their own poster with the slogan "Drive Alive into 1985".

### Fire brigade investigation

The fire brigade is investigating alleged irregularities in overtime and expenses claims involving 12 trade union representatives at stations in South-west London.

The men are all working firemen and, as station representatives of the Fire Brigades Union, receive overtime and expenses for union activities outside normal shift duties. The men have not been suspended. Inquiries are expected to last several weeks.

### Two admit sex torture of girl, 15

Edward Burke and Susan Jones, of Porth Rhondda Valley, kidnapped a girl aged 15 and submitting her to two hours of sexual torture, Cardiff Crown Court was told yesterday.

The couple, who admitted rape, indecent assault, abduction, kidnapping and buggery charges, will be sentenced today.

### Thermometer theft charge

Kenneth Coulbeck, aged 25, of Lord Street, Grimsby and Len Elliott, aged 19, of Haven Avenue, Grimsby, appeared before Grimsby magistrates yesterday, charged with stealing a thermometer from Boots.

They were remanded in custody. Two juveniles were put in the care of the local authority.

### Police constable is acquitted

Police Constable Harrison Westgarth, aged 29, was yesterday acquitted at Southwark Crown Court of attacking a schoolboy with a truncheon.

PC Westgarth, of Holloway police station, north London, denied striking the boy on the head while two other officers allegedly held the boy down after being called to a brawl in Wdmor Road, Upper Holloway, in July 1982.

### More choose polytechnics

The proportion of students going to polytechnics increased again this year by 4.4 per cent over last year's figure, with almost three-quarters embarking on first degree courses.

Nearly 150,000 students enrolled on full-time and sandwich courses in October 1984, with enrolments up for courses in applied science, engineering, mathematics and technology.

W H Smith will sell *Private Eye*

W H Smith, Britain's biggest newsagent, which has boycotted the satirical magazine *Private Eye* for 23 years, is to handle its distribution in the new year.

It had refused to sell the magazine "on legal advice" and for fear of having to meet libel damages as the distributor of *Private Eye*, which expects to increase its print run by 100,000 copies.

### Sale Room

## English porcelain gains firmer price footing

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

English porcelain had one of its best days in the sale room for a long while yesterday with prices bouncing back and showing a substantial advance on the 1970s.

An elegant Worcester milk jug with a decoration of exotic birds on a yellow-scale ground made £29,180 (estimate £25,000). It was last seen at auction in October 1974 when it sold for £2,600.

Sotheby's sale of English illustrated books contained a rare copy of Edward Young's *Night Thoughts* with pictorial borders engraved by William Blake and coloured by hand; probably by Blake himself. It made £13,750 (estimate £10,000-£15,000). The sale totalled £10,774 with three per cent unsold.

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PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 17 1984

Miners' strike

Shipping decline • City bank collapse

Commentary

# Scargill demand attacked as absurd

## COAL DISPUTE

Repeatedly urged to take steps to bring about negotiations between the National Coal Board and National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, reminded Labour MPs over and over again in the Commons that since the dispute began there had been seven sets of negotiations, including an Acas proposal accepted by Nacods, the miners' deputies union, and that Mr Scargill, the NUM president, had repeatedly said he had not moved his position at all.

Indeed, Mr Walker pointed out, that morning after a meeting with the TUC, Mr Scargill had repeated his demand and informed the TUC that the NUM was not prepared to allow the closure of any section of the industry, however small. That kind of demand had never been made in the past. It was an absurd demand and one that would do permanent damage to the coal industry.

Reporting on the situation, Mr Walker said coal production was at its highest level since the dispute started and coal stocks at power stations remained similar to the level in August. Of the 174 pits, there were 148 with men present and 66 of these were producing coal. Since November 5, more than 16,500 striking miners had reported for work.

At today's meeting with representatives of the TUC, he had expressed the Government's regret that the compromise proposal put forward by Acas and the agreement reached with Nacods, had not provided proposals acceptable to the NUM leadership.

With two of the three mining unions not on strike at the moment and with the NUM, which had a ballot voting overwhelmingly against strike action, the Government regret that the two-thirds of the NUM continuing on strike have been deprived of the opportunity to express their views through a national ballot.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood, C): Will be assure working miners that further talks will not take place unless there is reliable evidence of a fundamental shift in the leadership of the NUM about the future of uneconomic pits?

Mr Walker: I have expressed to the TUC and the mining unions that I am willing to have talks with them at any time. In talks with the TUC

on Friday, I made clear that it was impossible to accept the totally unreasonable demand that a pit, however uneconomic, must be kept open until the last ton of coal has been extracted.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caeathyr, Lab): There are parts of the coal mining industry where the strike is solid, and no prospect of it being broken. In view of the increasing doubts about the NCB's accounting figures, we accept that there has to be a negotiated settlement, but it should not be helpful to instruct Mr MacGregor to withdraw his remarks about pre-conditions and get the parties back around the table!

Mr Walker: There have been seven sets of negotiations. In all of them, including those involving Acas with the compromise proposal. Mr Scargill has constantly stated that he has not moved his position. Mr Davies wants a settlement he should put pressure on Mr Scargill.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): Why not facilitate negotiations without pre-conditions between the NUM and NCB? Is it not clear that the Government is more concerned with the miners and their demands than NUM as part of its assault on the trade union movement rather than secure a negotiated settlement?

Mr Walker: There has been nothing from the TUC and the Labour Party in criticism of the Acas compromise proposal. It is time they persuaded Mr Scargill to accept it.

Mr John Hannan (Exeter, C) said the dispute was rapidly becoming one more about the NUM president than the miners. Mr Walker should compromise with the TUC which for itself having to negotiate on behalf of a union which refused to budge one inch towards a settlement.

Mr Walker: He has been nothing from the TUC and the Labour Party in criticism of the Acas compromise proposal. It is time they persuaded Mr Scargill to accept it.

He told union leaders at the Friday meeting that there was virtually no strike in the country with an offer available to it as generous as that made to the miners.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP) said the only people

who would change the views of the NUM leadership were the union members and the NUM executive.

Mr Walker: Some 16,500 union members have returned to work

under Acas, who put forward a compromise plan which the NUM leadership refused.

Mr Walker: The leadership of the union has always refused to put the terms on offer to the miners in a ballot.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab): For over a year since the overtime ban started Mr Walker has come here week after week to tell us that the strike is crumbling. Mr Walker has misled the House and the country and has deserved himself.

He overplayed the situation, it is in a shambles (Conservative laughter) and the only conclusion

which can be drawn from his refusal to encourage talks is that he and the Cabinet wish the strike to continue.

That is the conclusion most miners have drawn.

Mr Walker: Fortunately, the conclusion most miners have drawn about the strike is that it is rhetoric during the dispute and different from his record as Secretary of State.

On disputes crumbling, I recall it was Mr Benn who told me that coal movements would stop in April, since when 25 million tonnes have been moved.

Mr Walker: The company was set up with the initial capital of £5 million immediately. There were a substantial number of inquiries and I immediately agreed to double the capital. The Government informed the NCB that it was prepared to finance an expansion of their activities on this important work.

Mr Gavyn Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab): Why not facilitate negotiations without pre-conditions between the NUM and NCB? Is it not clear that the Government is more concerned with the miners and their demands than NUM as part of its assault on the trade union movement rather than secure a negotiated settlement?

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# Warsaw tries to placate party diehards with tough line on Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have signalled that they will maintain a hardline attitude towards the Solidarity opposition despite Washington's decision to 'lift one' of its economic sanctions against the Jaruzelski Government.

The large display of police force and the breaking up of a demonstration in Gdansk on Sunday were apparently authorized by the provincial Governor, General Mieczyslaw Gwiazda, clearly with the approval of Warsaw.

Water cannon was used in sub-zero temperatures, flares cracked through the sky and the Zemo riot police were not shy of using batons.

In return, the Solidarity demonstrators, wanting to lay flowers at a monument to commemorate workers shot down 14 years ago, shouted and threw stones. At least, one important Solidarity figure, Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, was still in custody yesterday, the charge uncertain.

Friends of the former deputy chairman of Solidarity said that

he was being put before a magistrate's court in Gdansk and could receive a two-month jail term if the authorities accused him of organizing Sunday's demonstration.

Some diplomats here argue that the action against the Solidarity protesters was symbolic, sending a message to the hardliners in the Communist Party's Central Committee which is due to meet on Friday. The session will discuss the economy but it is also expected to hear a report on party control of the security services, a report that was commissioned after the murder of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko by secret policemen.

It is an unwritten rule in Polish Communist Party politics that any open criticism of the police must be accompanied by a sign that the Government is not going soft on "the enemies of socialism."

Whether symbolic or not, the tough response to what was intended to be a mild mannered demonstration, has confused the process of lifting sanctions.

In a leak over the weekend, the Reagan Administration had let

other demonstrations or rallies were treated mildly or even ignored by the authorities.

Near the Wujek colliery in Silesia - where nine miners were killed by police after the imposition of martial law exactly three years ago yesterday - some leading Solidarity activists laid flowers at a plaque reading: "To the miners from Wujek killed in the struggle for national freedom, social justice and at their work places."

In Lodz, a plaque was unveiled in a church to the memory of Father Popiełuszko but again without the interference of the authorities.

# Sweeping a path for Thatcher



Chinese soldiers attacking the snow with brooms yesterday outside the Great Hall of the People in Peking, in preparation for the visit of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who arrives this evening to sign the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong.

When she flies in, the Prime Minister will find a Peking blanketed in two to three inches of snow and swept by cold winds from Siberia.

Her champagne reception will be in marked contrast with the frosty atmosphere when she launched the

talks on Hong Kong's future. She slipped and fell on the steps of the Great Hall after an icy meeting with the Chinese leader Mr Deng Xiaoping, who has seen it as his personal mission to recover Hong Kong from Britain.

## Scrap star wars, say scientists

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Prospects for controlling nuclear weapons arising from the Shultz-Gromyko talks here next month will be scuttled if the United States pursues its "Star Wars" project beyond the present stage of basic research.

This was the unanimous view at a two-day meeting here of the Pugwash organization, attended by scientists, public and military figures from 18 countries, to assess the new opportunity for nuclear arms control.

"There must be no further weaponization of space," the group said.

Professor John Holdren of the University of California, Berkeley, who is president of the Federation of American Scientists, said: "To press on with the star wars project will rip the lid of constraints off the whole spectrum of nuclear weapons. The majority of scientists, including those engaged in aero-space research and development, say in private that there is essentially no hope this technology will develop in any time scale worth thinking about into actual defence of populations against nuclear attacks."

• MOSCOW: Mr Yure Zhukov, a senior Soviet commentator, yesterday questioned whether the US was going into the forthcoming Geneva arms talks with sincere intentions (Reuter reports).

Writing in the Communist Party daily *Pravda*, Mr Zhukov said the discussions due to take place next month offered Washington a chance to prove its peaceful intentions with concrete actions. But he cited recent statements by senior US officials as evidence that the Reagan Administration was bent on pursuing its former course "to achieve military superiority at any price in order to rule the planet."

• VIENNA: A Soviet diplomat here yesterday rebutted American claims that Moscow has built up nuclear weapons superiority (Reuter reports).

The US Administration goes to all lengths to prove that the US is lagging behind the Soviet Union in this area. It is not correct," Mr Oleg Khestov, Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, told a news conference.

## Mitterrand's global view

## French rule out force against Libyans

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand's increasing penchant for one-man secret diplomacy has been largely responsible for the partial collapse of the traditional national consensus on foreign affairs.

Opinion is divided over whether M Mitterrand succeeded in dispelling any doubts over his foreign policy during his one-hour interview.

A tour d'horizon of his foreign policy on television on Sunday night, halfway through his seven-year Presidential term, M Mitterrand also touched on the situation in New Caledonia. He launched a surprisingly sharp attack on Australia, which has been critical of France's handling of the explosive situation in the islands.

"If there is no longer a problem over the indigenous Aborigines in Australia... it is because they have been killed," he said. "That is not the path chosen by France. That is why France is so respected and held in such high esteem in its former colonies."

The Government's handling of Chad and New Caledonia, coupled with what is seen as

comment on the now famous promise by M Claude Cheyssy, then Foreign Minister, at the time of the signing last September of the agreement with Libya, for the mutual withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from Chad: "If they go, we go. If they stay, we stay. If they return, we return."

The French troops have gone, and the Libyans have returned. France's originally declared intention of restoring Chad's territorial integrity has been reduced to containing the Libyans above the 16th parallel which divides the rebel-held north from the Government-controlled south.

The Chad affair has severely shaken the confidence of France's friends in francophone Africa. Despite M Mitterrand's promise at the Franco-African summit in Bujumbura last week that "no act of aggression (in Africa) will be tolerated", many are now left wondering how far they can rely on France to protect their independence.

"I am not the gendarme of Africa," M Mitterrand insisted on Sunday night. "My desire is to succeed in liberating Chad through constant pressure, by the means that I choose and not those that others wish to impose on me."

M Mitterrand revealed that the civil war in the south of the country was causing problems for the French expatriates living there. "The French, considered allies of the N'djamena Government, have become so unpopular that it has become necessary to protect them. I have now taken measures to protect the French population and other friends of France."

On the broader question of North-South relations in general, M Mitterrand said that France was in the forefront of nations giving aid to the South. He maintained that France was "the most popular, the best understood, and the best-liked country" in the Third World.

Turning to East-West relations, M Mitterrand made clear his desire to strengthen Franco-Soviet ties. "I believe that France should have an active relationship of friendship or, if not of mutual respect with the Soviet Union".

## Reagan to appeal for more Contras funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Some Administration officials say that various proposals for increased diplomatic and military pressure on Nicaragua are circulating in the State Department, the White House, the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr Shultz said last month that he knew of no plans to interdict arms shipments to Nicaragua or to undertake other military and diplomatic initiatives to slow such shipments.



Mr Shultz and Mr Weinberger: Differences of emphasis

The drama of the MIG fighters, which was allowed to unfold with heightened expectations on each night's television news last month, was a serious propaganda disaster. The freighter, Bakunai, sailed home to the Black Sea without depositing a single Russian MIG.

The bungled episode demonstrated the lack of agreement on how to discredit and undermine the Sandinistas.

Several ideas are being considered but the option of a full invasion is not on the table, despite all the Administration's hints and innuendoes to the contrary. The strategy, simply, is to keep up the pressure by publicly holding out the possibility of military intervention.

There are contradictory strands to the handling of the Nicaragua question. While Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has visited Managua and talked of America's commitment to a peaceful solution, the Administration has been happily encouraging the increasing flow of private funds to anti-Sandinista rebels operating across the border.

President Reagan has expressed sympathy for the private effort to help the rebels, who no longer receive public aid. He said he would be inclined not to want to interfere with them. At the same time, he has voiced support for the peace process of the Contadora nations - Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico.

It will also be seeking an increase in total financial assistance to more than \$4 billion for 1986.

Despite claims in Jerusalem of severe financial straits if the demands are not met, the Reagan Administration is thought unlikely to agree to such huge increases. There has been disappointment in Washington that the austerity measures so far carried out by Israel's Government of national unity have not been more extensive.

A last-minute decision was taken to include three leading economists in the Israeli delegation. Their job will be to explain the dire economic conditions to the Americans.

The meeting comes at a bad time for Israel as it coincides with an attempt by President Reagan to find ways of reducing the large deficit in the American budget to be presented to Congress next month.

Some Israeli sources are afraid that US plans to freeze spending across the board, including foreign aid, may now be under consideration in Washington.

## Two Lebanon villages put under curfew

Jerusalem - Israeli security forces yesterday imposed curfews on two Shia Muslim villages in occupied southern Lebanon after the killing of a 19-year-old Israeli soldier in the region on Sunday night (Christopher Walker writes).

The new clampdown follows last week's action in seven villages in which, according to United Nations sources, a total of five Lebanese civilians died.

Yesterday's operation coincided with the opening of the tenth session of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal talks in the southern Lebanese village of Naqura. The Lebanese delegation complained strongly about last week's Israeli action in which more than 100 people were detained.

The injured were taken to hospital, and first reports on Israeli radio said their wounds were slight. A huge police operation was launched in the area, and streets were sealed off. Police sources said it was assumed that the attack was carried out by "terrorists".

In recent months, buses have become a popular target for attacks by Arab and Jewish extremists both in Israel itself and in the occupied territories. There are fears that last night's attack might provoke further retaliation.

## Tel Aviv bus in rush-hour grenade attack

Jerusalem - Three people were injured in Tel Aviv during last night's rush hour when a hand grenade was thrown over a wall at a bus near the central market (Christopher Walker writes).

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## Lightning toll

Harare (AP) - After five more deaths from lightning, the government-controlled *Harare Herald* labelled the toll a "national scandal" and demanded a public awareness campaign on safety procedures. This year's storm season deaths total 60.

## Tokyo quake

Tokyo (AP) - An earthquake

## People of Bhopal begin return home

Delhi - People began drifting back to the gas disaster city of Bhopal yesterday as the operation to neutralize the remaining stock of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas continued successfully (Trevor Fishlock writes).

By last night, eight of the 15 tonnes of gas stored in an underground tank in liquid form, had been rendered into pesticide. Helicopters circled over the Union Carbide plant spraying water as a safety measure.

The districts around the plant were still deserted, and many shops and houses elsewhere in the city stayed locked. Most of the customers at the tea and tobacco stores that remained open in the older section of the city were police and paramilitary troops who were out in force to prevent theft and looting.

The disaster, which killed more than 2,000 people and left 100,000 suffering the effects of exposure to MIC, has led to the postponement of the parliamentary election in Bhopal.

## Heart man gets out of bed

Louisville (AP) - William Schroeder, the recent recipient of an artificial heart, got out of bed for the first time since suffering a stroke four days ago, but was in a worsened condition, the director of the Human Heart Institute in this Kentucky city said.

Dr Allan Lansing said that Mr Schroeder sat in a chair for about an hour and talked with members of his family, but he showed signs of deep apathy. "He doesn't seem to be very interested in talking".

## Human wall halts dam

Vienna (Reuter) - Thousands of demonstrators, forming a human wall, prevented site clearance work for a hydro-electric power plant near Hainburg only hours after the work had started, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

"Demonstrators have made a living wall around the clearing site and work had to stop. Otherwise many people would have been injured," he said, adding that police were told not to use force.

## Rebel Vietnam archbishop dies

Rome (AP) - Pierre Martin Ngo-Dinh Thuc, the excommunicated former Archbishop of Hue, in Vietnam, and brother of the late South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, has died in the United States.

The Vatican, announcing his death, also said that the Pope had pardoned Ngo, aged 87, after the former archbishop wrote a letter to him on July 11 "retracting all my previous errors."

## Mintoff hailed

Moscow (Reuter) - The Maltese Prime Minister, Dr Dom Mintoff, was given a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here for a visit. The Soviet Prime Minister Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko greeted him at the airport.

## Lightning toll

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## Tokyo quake

Tokyo (AP) - An earthquake measuring three on the Japanese scale of seven hit Tokyo last night, but there were no reports of damage. Buildings were jolted sharply and rocked for about 30 seconds.

## Berlin blaze

Berlin (AP) - A yuletide wreath that caught fire is being blamed for a blaze in an East Berlin apartment that killed two and injured eight. It was of a type popular in Germany which has four mounted candles.

## Algeria's guest

Algiers (AP) - President Erich Honecker of East Germany arrived for an official three-day visit to Algeria. It will include talks with President Chadli Benjedid.

## Quins blow

Berlin (AP) - Three boys and two girls were born to a West Berlin woman over the weekend, but two, a boy and a girl, died later. Their weights ranged from 1lb 14oz to 2lb 3oz.

## Bomb haul

Copenhagen (AP) - Danish fishermen recently hauled in Second World War mustard gas bombs while trawling in the Baltic near the island of Bornholm.

## Cardin burgled

Paris (Reuter) - Burglars who broke into the Paris home of the couturier, Pierre Cardin, got away with about £15,000.

## Lorries blockade border

Geneva (AP) - About 30 checkpoints along the French-Swiss border were blocked to lorries as French and Swiss lorry drivers staged a blockade to protest against a planned Swiss road tax.

Drivers parked their lorries in front of checkpoints along the 135-mile stretch between

Geneva and Geneva beginning at midnight. Many other lorries were unable to manoeuvre past them.

Cars were forced to slow down and drive in "salom" fashion to cross the border, and were delayed up to 2½ hours in huge traffic jams.

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentine

## Greek ship hit in third Gulf attack

B

The sub-continent prepares to vote

# Gandhi juggernaut rolls to victory as electors embrace Nehru dynasty

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi

The dynamics of Indian politics and history swing to the advantage of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He has been dealt all the electoral triumphs and his Congress Party juggernaut is rolling to victory in the world's largest election. Next week Indian voters will place their hopes for their country into the hands of this politically unseasoned young man.

His inexperience, as it happens, is to his benefit. He is a political unknown, an unpainted canvas, and as such he appears to be all things to all men. He arrives with a minimum of baggage and debts and people find this exciting. He seems to offer a real prospect of change. Indians hope that their national story is at a genuine turning point.

Had Mrs Gandhi been running in this election she would have had a struggle on her hands. She would have had to marshal all her shrewdness, her tigerish fighting ability and her unsurpassed knowledge of the labyrinth of Indian politics, to counter her own unpopularity among a considerable part of the population.

She would have been fighting that desire for change that is now focussed on her son. His newness and rawness are among the qualities that seem to make him the most likely agent for reform.

At the same time, as well as being the beneficiary of this reaction, he will do well from being his mother's son. As a latter-day empress, the only all-India figure, long term leader, and shaper and controller of her

name ceaselessly as he criss-crosses the country, addressing large rallies. There are twice as many posters showing Mrs Gandhi as there are showing her son.

As a Nehru, bearing a great

name, Mr Gandhi represents the remarkable line of continuity in modern Indian history. The idea of a dynasty has it critics, but many Indians find comfort and stability in the

prospect of another Nehru managing the country.

In any case there was no credible alternative to Mrs Gandhi when his mother was murdered. That was part of her legacy, and also, it can be argued, her disservice, to Indian democracy.

Always insecure, always determined that power should be held firmly at the centre, she accrued power to herself, sought always to make herself unchallengeable, and cut down any regional chief or other political figure who might have challenged her. She would have argued that India needed strong leadership at the centre. But her failure to encourage the growth of political talent weakened the democratic fabric of the mighty Congress Party.

Only her son had her complete trust. His transition from the life of agreeable obscurity he once led, to the leadership of this huge country, was inevitable. There is no one in the party who is strong enough to attract the support that would make him an alternative to Mr Gandhi. The Nehrus have always been able to command much loyalty.

There are other factors helping Mr Gandhi in this election. There is a Hindu backlash against the Sikh terrorism that came to a head this year, culminating in the Army assault on the Sikhs' Golden Temple in Amritsar and the vengeance of the extremists on Mrs Gandhi.

Leading article, page 13



Another case solved: Georges Simenon, aged 81, creator of Inspector Maigret, before leaving hospital in Lausanne yesterday, 10 days after surgery to remove a benign head tumour. His surgeon said he was now perfectly well.

## Opposition leader survives crash

Delhi (Reuter) — India's main opposition leader, Mr Charan Singh, aged 82, the former Prime Minister, escaped unhurt when his four-seater plane crash-landed yesterday. A spokesman for his Dalit Mazdoor Kisan party said that the aircraft, chartered by the party to campaign for next week's national elections, landed on its belly at Banaras airport in northern Uttar Pradesh after its front wheel collapsed. No one was injured.

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Leading article, page 13

## Chernenko pledges aid to Addis

From Mario Mediane, Athens

Moscow (Reuter) — President Konstantin Chernenko praised Ethiopia's famine relief efforts at a meeting yesterday with the Ethiopian leader. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and pledged continued Soviet aid for the drought-stricken country.

Colonel Mengistu, who is the Kremlin's closest African ally, is visiting Moscow on an unannounced trip that diplomats said appeared to be aimed at winning a promise of increased Soviet assistance.

Reporting the meeting, Tass news agency said Mr Chernenko praised "the Ethiopian Government's resolute actions.

In Sindh the people seemed subdued, possibly because the opposition has a stronghold in that province. However, opposition to the regime or the referendum is forbidden under various special orders and ordinances.

Meanwhile, the chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S A Nasrat, told a press conference here yesterday that he would announce the results of the referendum by next Saturday. No partial or regional results would be permitted.

Mr Justice Nasrat, a Supreme Court judge, took pains to assure the journalists that ballot boxes and fairness in counting would be fully protected, although most referendum arrangements would be carried out by officials at district level.

Diplomats said Ethiopian officials have indicated they were not fully satisfied with the extent of relief aid from the Soviet Union, which provides large-scale military support to Addis Ababa's Marxist Government.

Although public demonstrations are banned under martial law, his appearances in cities and towns drew large crowds in many parts of the

country.

President Zia assured women that he recognized their vital role in society. There could be no forward movement if there was just one wheel in a cart, he told them. They responded with cheers and loud slogans of support.

During his mass-contact campaign as he has called his whirlwind tour of the country, General Zia appealed to popular religious sentiments for endorsement of his Islamization programme so that it could be firmly established in the next five years.

He contrasted his character and rule with that of his predecessor, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whom he overthrew as Prime Minister in July 1977.

Three go in González party shakeup

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, yesterday completed his campaign for a referendum mandate to continue as President for a fresh five-year term.

He has made a special effort to win women's votes, assuring them that he was not so orthodox that he would want the nation locked within four walls just because they happened to be female.

During his mass-contact campaign as he has called his whirlwind tour of the country, General Zia appealed to popular religious sentiments for endorsement of his Islamization programme so that it could be firmly established in the next five years.

He contrasted his character and rule with that of his predecessor, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whom he overthrew as Prime Minister in July 1977.

Three Cabinet ministers have lost their places on the new executive of Spain's ruling Socialist Party in a shakeup intended by the recent party congress to put more life into it.

Ever since the Socialists won power in the 1982 general election the executive has rubber-stamped Government decisions.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, heads the new executive and personally selected the other 14 men and two

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Chances for UK in Taiwan

## From cheap replicas to high-tech

Taiwan, or the Republic of China, publicly refused to accept that Hong Kong is the conduit through which so much of its trade with the rest of the world pours will in 1997 become part of Communist China. In this second report on Taiwan's attitude to the agreement Mrs Thatcher will sign tomorrow, Charles Wilson outlines the dangers to Taiwan's economy and what the Government in Taipei is doing about them.

Intellectuals and politicians in Taiwan share the same belief about the relationship with Peking — that the civil war which seemed

to be lost when Chiang Kai-shek fled with two million of his followers to Formosa in 1949, is still going on.

Although the shooting has long since stopped, the economic war is hotter than ever and the difference in size and population only lends a David and Goliath quality to the battle. Taiwan people are convinced that their own economic success and skill will be the sledgehammers which will win the fight for the minds of the people of the mainland.

"We are like Avis... we have to try harder," says Dr Yu-Ming Shiu, chairman of the Institute of International Relations, the Government's think-tank.

"The Peking Government is getting very anxious because we have become not a military threat but an economic, ideological and a psychological threat. We are a huge embarrassment for them because we have a vastly superior system with a standard of living their people can't even dream about.

"The Communists know they cannot use military force. We spend 40 per cent of our GNP on defence and have a million troops. Although they might win in the end, it would be at terrible cost. The people on the mainland would not stand for such a war with their own ethnic people. So we believe that in the current equation they will not attack."

From across the narrow Taiwan Strait, Deng Xiaoping offers alluring incentives if only Taiwan will acknowledge Peking's control — political autonomy, the retention of the mainland would stand for such a war with their own ethnic people. So we believe that in the current equation they will not attack."

"Your government also makes it difficult for us. A businessman here in Taiwan has to get a visa from Hong Kong to go to Britain. It takes up to six weeks and there is a stupid formality of depositing a guarantee of £2,500 here in Taipei."

"We need machine tools, chemical products and some raw materials. We can take high tech products, computers, engineering goods and transport equipment."

"Currently, 40 per cent of our imports from the UK come via Hong Kong and agents there take between 1 and 3 per cent of your turnover. We would like you to come direct."

Concluded

High-profile defence: A Taiwanese officer looks across the 1,000 yards from Quemoy Island to Communist China. Taiwan spends 40 per cent of its GNP on defence.

## Verdict on Vietnamese families sue airline

From David Watts

Tokyo

Ho Chi Minh City (Reuter) — The prosecution at the trial of 21 defendants accused of plotting to overthrow the Vietnamese Government yesterday said they were "guilty beyond a shadow of doubt".

The chief prosecutor, Mr Tran Le, made the claim in summing up before the Supreme Court, which is to deliver its verdict today.

He said the evidence was conclusive that the accused, many of them military men who served in the former South Vietnamese Army, plotted to overthrow the Government with the support of China and Thailand and the connivance of the United States.

The full force of the law should be brought to bear against them, he said, many of whom admitted their guilt and asked for leniency.

Under Vietnamese law the maximum penalty for treason and espionage is death by firing squad. One defendant, Mr Tran Van Phuong, asked to be executed.

The court-appointed defence lawyer, Mr Trieu Quoc Manh, raised laughter in the courtroom when he said it was difficult to defend the accused because of the conclusive evidence against them.

## Extortioners' reprieve

Tokyo. — The extortion gang harassing Japanese firms since the spring has urged senior police officers to relax the investigations over the traditional new year holidays (David Watts writes).

Hinting that its members are about to take some time off themselves after a successful under-the-table deal with one of

an army general, was established to administer the area.

Observers fear that they may be in the custody of the Ayacucho Political Military Command and could be subject to torture and extra-judicial execution. Yuri Alejandro is believed to have been tortured at Huanta police station.

Scores of teenagers are known to have been detained by hooded members of the security forces and "disappeared", either indefinitely or for varying lengths of time in nine provinces of the highland departments since December, 1982, when the Military Political Command, headed by

an army general, was established to administer the area.

The departments have since been placed under a state of emergency and there have been constant reports of torture, as security forces have sought members of the guerrilla organization Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). The bodies of teenagers stripped naked and showing signs of torture have been found in Ayacucho province. (There is also evidence that Sendero Luminoso has executed young people).

The rebels have recruited some students from Ayacucho secondary schools, a fact used by the military to justify widespread arrests.

## Trimaran crew rescued after 17 hours in sea

New York (Reuter) — All five crewmen from a capsized French trimaran were rescued after spending 17 hours clinging to the hull, the US Coast Guard said yesterday.

The Medecins Sans Frontière skippered by Jean-Yves Terlain, capsized 600 miles south of Bermuda while taking part in a race from Spain to Santo Domingo following the route of the 1492 voyage by Christopher Columbus.

The trimaran overturned when it ran into 16ft waves created by high winds.

The crew did not have time to send a distress call, the Coast Guard spokesman said. But a crewmember flipped a switch activating an automatic satellite-linked alarm system, known as Argos, which broadcast a distress signal and the vessel's exact location to the US Coast Guard Rescue and Coordination Centre.

All the rescued crewmen were reported to be in good shape despite their ordeal.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 18 1984

1000-1500

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We designed the Austin Montego range with style in mind. A fact recognised by the Design Council in selecting the Montego as the first car ever to carry the Design Centre label.

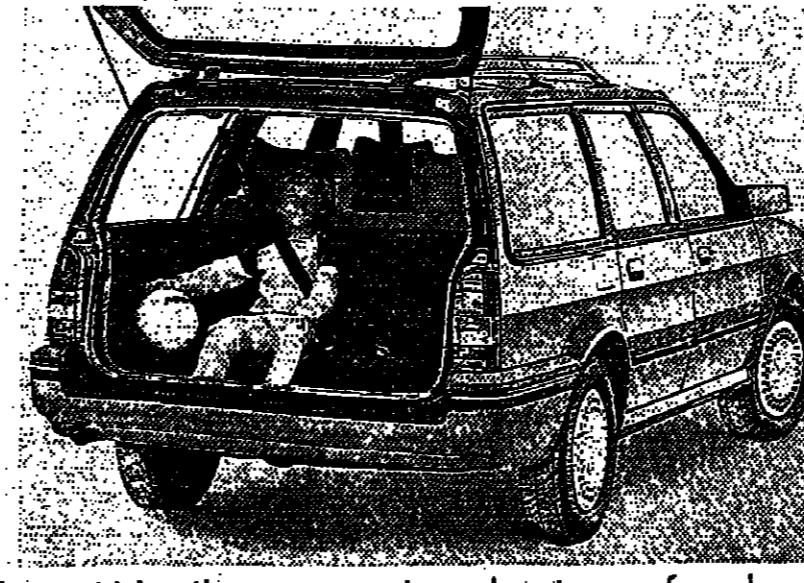
So it comes as no surprise that 5 elegant and innovative estates have joined the range.

Montego is the first British estate to offer the option of an extra foldaway twin rear child seat, making it a 7 seater.

And we've ensured extra carrying capacity by offering a beautifully integrated roof rack. With removable cross-rails to retain Montego Estate's impressive aerodynamics.

For all its style, Montego is equipped to work for its living. The versatile interior with its multiple seat configurations can change from a 7 seater limousine to a massive 60 cubic ft\* load carrier in seconds.

\*Manufacturer's data. DOT figs. Montego 1.6L Estate simulated urban cycle 31.9 mpg/8.9L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 53.3 mpg/5.3L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 38.8 mpg/7.3L per 100 km. Prices correct at time of going to press excluding number plates and delivery. Main illustration 20 HL at £8,126 with integral roof rack and rear child seats at extra cost.



Using the space-saving advantages of road-hugging, front wheel drive and a power choice of 1.6 or 2.0 litres, this car drives like a dream.

Montego Estate leads the competition with a

remarkable balance of economy and performance. The 1.6L, with its standard 5 speed gearbox, delivers an incredible 53.3 mpg at 56 mph, and there's the option of automatic transmission, while the 2.0 litre leaves others standing with 0-60 in just 10.2 quick seconds.\* Added to Montego Estate's style, versatility, performance, economy and incredible value for money, are the comprehensive benefits of Supercare, Austin Rover's customer care plan.

Let one of our dealers tell you so much more when you take a test drive in the new Austin Montego Estate. In the country or in the town.

But certainly in style.

**AUSTIN MONTEGO ESTATE**  
**DRIVING AT ITS BEST**

## SPECTRUM

The day before UNICEF publishes a disturbing report on the state of the world's children, Caroline Moorehead reveals that British youngsters too are increasingly at risk

# Our children under siege

As the year ends in one of the most prosperous countries of the world, it is clear that though British children are not starving to death their position and prospects have declined in the last decade. Today the British child is smoking more, drinking more alcohol, sniffing more glue and injecting considerably more heroin than he would have done in the mid-1970s. He runs away more often from home and, having committed more crimes is more likely to serve a custodial sentence.

He is three times more likely to be living on or below the Supplementary poverty line, and will much more probably come from a broken or one-parent family from whom he will receive less attention, affection and security. This year, one child each week was battered to death. Usually it was a boy, aged less than a year, and he died from head injuries.

There are today just over 12 million children, more of them boys than girls, in the United Kingdom. While legitimate births have declined by nearly a third in 20 years, illegitimate ones have doubled. One in eight of all families is now a one-parent family, an increase of just over 70 per cent in 10 years.

Meanwhile, the fastest growing group of statutory orders on children is matrimonial. So confused is the civil law governing family matters that a couple can have three children in care for the same reasons, under three different statutory provisions: one order in the Juvenile court, one in a county court and another in a High court. Each has its own rules on evidence and appeal.

The last decade has seen a virtual tripling of the number of children living within what the Child Poverty Action Group considers as poverty or its margins, from 1.25m in 1974 to 3.68m in 1981, the last moment when comparable figures were available. That number has undoubtedly risen. "Increasingly, we're finding poverty in families with children", says Ruth Lister of CPAG.

These last years have seen a definite shift away from pensioners and towards children. Particularly hard, she adds, is the fact that while poverty grows, so do the expectations of poor children, as advertising on television promises a future of home computers, automatic cameras and innumerable desirable gadgets.

It is obvious that poverty cannot be linked to all children's ills. However, as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children reveals, more than 50,000 children are now being battered every year (more of them, but less seriously, than in the 1970s) or mentally tortured, neglected or emotionally starved, and that nearly two-thirds of these families are receiving supplementary benefits – a steady rise from less than half in 1977. (That year 35 per cent of fathers in battering families were unemployed; five years later, 58 per cent.)



Mistreated and alone, one of a growing number of children at risk in Britain

"There is no simple causal connection of course," one child worker said. "But there is equally an obvious and complex interaction between unemployment, stress, vulnerability and child abuse. A father who has lost his job, the NSPCC research shows, may well try to reassess his authority through violence.

Violence perpetuated both on the young and by the young is up. Sexual abuse, the subject of widespread enquiry both in England and the United States this year, has been consistently under-reported for some time. From figures gathered in 1983, it would seem that there are 0.09 cases per 1,000 children –

81 per cent of them girls – as compared with 0.63 per cent of cases on the Merseyside. Physical abuse, if not necessarily indecent exposure, goes on, in more or less secret, in many incidents, as many as half occurring at the end of the century. Girls may suffer some 25,000 incidents of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

Children themselves are participating in the overall rise in crime. Indictable offences, like

body harm, blackmail, arson and housebreaking among those over 10 and under 17, rose from 83,000 in 1972 to 90,000 in 1982. In the United States, but not here – arson is reaching what public officials call epidemic proportions. Increasingly, the fires are being set by children. In 1982, 20,000 people were arrested, for arson, an increase in four years of 13 per cent. Of those almost half were under 18. A few were aged between four and eight. Nearly all were boys.

Matching the rise in crime, there is a tremendous increase in the use of custody for young offenders, despite a new law, the Criminal Justice Act of 1982, which should have resulted in the opposite. Last year, 20,000 juveniles received custodial sentences.

To the violence about dies and to the disintegration of their families, children are increasingly responding by running away. One boy recently spent three weeks in the woods, avoiding police; another ran from an unauthorised home 22 times in a year. Centrefix, set up in 1969 as London's "crash pad" to offer refuge for teenagers at night, turns away about 1,500 would-be residents a year.

In the last three years, a growing number have been under 16, and as many as one in six, according to one worker, were illiterate. Surprisingly, the National

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2 Join "Hungry For Change". Clearly, we can't go on like this. In the long term we need change. Ethiopia needs it. Sudan, Chad, Brazil... we all need a change in the system that allows 500 million people to go hungry every day.

In October we launched a campaign to make that change. We called it "Hungry For Change". Please fill in the coupon below and join us today.

Yes, we need your money, but more than that – we need you!

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## THE FACTS

1982 Total United Kingdom population 56 million  
Population under 16 12 million  
Abortions girls under 16 4,245

One in eight of all families a one-parent family. One in six of all children likely to need some special education.

## POVERTY

(on, below or on margins of Supplementary Benefit level)

1974 1.25 million  
1981 3.68 million

CHILD ABUSE

1982 50,000 children physically and mentally abused, neglected and emotionally starved 600 severely with injuries to bones, head, etc.

52 battered to death

## CRIME

(Indictable offences in children of over 10 and under 17)

1972 53,000  
1982 50,000

## ADDICTION

Notified young drug addicts tripled in nine years:

One child in four a regular smoker at 16

Driving offences in under 18 year olds tripled in 20 years

## MISSING

1983 boys under 14 268  
boys 14-17 1,074  
girls under 14 18  
girls 14-17 1,348

## ADOPTION

1982 24,831 adoption orders in England and Wales

1983 9,029 adoption orders in England and Wales

## UNION OF TEACHERS

These figures show a steady

1974 and 1982

diminishing trend.

If you divide the figures in 1971, 1972 and 1973 by the number of children under 16, you find that in 1971, 1972 and 1973, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining. In 1974, 1975 and 1976, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is increasing. In 1977, 1978 and 1979, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining again. In 1980, 1981 and 1982, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is increasing again. In 1983, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining again. In 1984, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is increasing again. In 1985, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining again. In 1986, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is increasing again. In 1987, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining again. In 1988, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is increasing again. In 1989, the number of incidents per 1,000 children is declining again. 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## How the British sank their first Cognac Courvoisier

**C**ognac has long been a favourite of the British.

As far back as

Dr Samuel Johnson

following observations:

Claret is for boys

men. But cognac

heroes.

Be that

certain

of the

Courvoisier is the only cognac to be honoured with The Diploma Prestige de la France, the French award for excellence.

the

British

Emperor's favo

somewhat slim.

Circumstances changed that

In 1815, after his abdication, Napoleon arranged to leave secretly for the United States of America.

He loaded two ships with a variety of provisions, including cognac supplied by Emmanuel Courvoisier.

In 1860, Felix Courvoisier was appointed official purveyor of cognacs to the Court of Napoleon III.

Napoleon subsequently changed his mind and decided to give

David Hart

Packet

and

periodicals

and

books

and

magazines

and

newspapers

and

periodicals

and

books

and

magazines

and

newspapers

J. Cognac de Napoleon

## Courtesy of Napoleon.

himself up to the British.

All his belongings, including the cognac were eventually transferred to the HMS Northumberland, thus giving the British officers ample time to taste the cognac.

In fact they got such a taste for it that Courvoisier became known as the cognac of Napoleon.

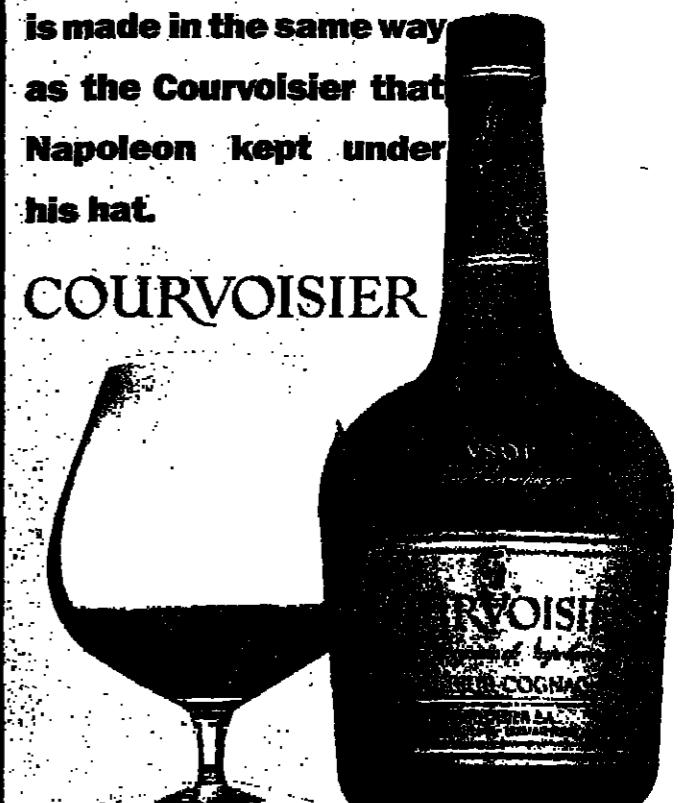
**C**ourvoisier is still made in the same way, using the best grapes of the Charente area of France.

All brandy is not cognac. Cognac can only be produced from the grapes of the Charente area of South West France, where conditions are ideal. Ordinary brandies can be produced anywhere, from almost any fruit.

It is matured in oak casks for a longer period than French cognac laws decree and blended by Master blenders, who serve an apprenticeship of at least ten years.

The Courvoisier we drink today is made in the same way as the Courvoisier that Napoleon kept under his hat.

**COURVOISIER**



*The Born Leader*

## HONG KONG FASHION I

by Suzy Menkes

## Enticing the

Tomorrow Mrs Thatcher arrives in Peking

to sign the treaty to hand the British

Crown Colony to mainland China.

Chairman Deng Xiaoping heads a country

of one thousand million potential

consumers. The Hong Kong fashion

industry has found its markets and its

inspiration in the West. But designers are

now examining their cultural identity



Embroidered satin dressing gown by Lin Ying Ying £162. Harrods lingerie. Ivory silk tuxedo jacket £96 and pyjama trousers £72 both by Fenn Wright and Manson from Younger Set, Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1. Cherry blossom tree from Neal Street East, Covent Garden WC2.



Hong Kong has a flourishing fashion industry in search of its roots. The colony is planted in China, and is soon to be a part of it, yet Hong Kong fashion looks towards the West.

The streets may echo with the click of Mah Jong counters, but also with Western high heels. While mainland China is still encased in Mao suits, Hong Kong's fashion uniform is jeans and designer labels.

This thriving city with its outlying territories is the third largest fashion exporter in the world, with figures that show a beanshoot growth. Hong Kong was once known for the cheap and shoddy, but it is now trading upwards as surely as the Peak Tram climbs to its panoramic heights. As you look down from the top at the sweep of the South China Sea and huge container port, you are looking at a manufacturing base with the capacity to clothe the entire western world. It is an awesome thought.

Behind the coastal ridge and its undulating New Territories lies a vast and untapped market which Hong Kong is culturally and strategically placed to serve. The dragon is already stirring, as the People's Republic of China takes its first tentative steps towards creating a consumer market for clothing.

Hong Kong's fashion success so far has come from being fast on its feet. As the market for cheap T-shirts and cut-price separates moved away to lower-cost countries in Asia - Taiwan, Singapore and even China itself - Hong Kong deliberately decided to increase its fashion content. Even if those other countries follow its lead, they still have a long way to catch up, says George Blaney, deputy executive director of the Trade Development Council, which was set up in 1966 and has majored on fashion promotion.

"We have established ourselves as reliable and, fashionable and the entire infrastructure of Hong Kong makes it comfortable for people who trade," says Mr Blaney. "We are already on that upward-escalator and we are moving on at a relatively faster pace."

It is a neat metaphor for the urban shopping malls and walkways which make Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon side into an efficient conveyor belt of fashion.

The most influential of these shopping areas is the Landmark - a monument in white marble and sparkling fountains to the international designer labels.

These are the status symbol clothes for the chic, wealthy Hong Kong ladies, the "Tai Tais" as the Chinese language graphically describes them.

In fact, Hong Kong itself is increasingly a manufacturing resource for upmarket designer names - not for the high fashion collections, but for the more regular lines that need to be made in quantity to a high standard.

I watched Giorgio Armani menswear, Krizia Mirros collection, Perry Ellis' multi-patterned cashmere, Valentino and Ungaro labels all rolling off

the high tech Japanese computerized machines at Top Knitters, who justifiably style themselves as "the name behind the labels".

Capturing the Italian designers was a source of particular pride, says Elizabeth Woo Li of Top Knitters, who did her fashion training in New York.

Hong Kong has worked hard to lose its sweat shop image, but designers need to play an active part in the industry and build up an indigenous look, says Judy Mann. She set up this year a group of 29 designers to promote Hong Kong style in the local market as well as overseas, and to recruit and encourage young designers.

"A lot of people criticize us for not being creative enough," says Judy Mann. "We want to be creative, but we also want to succeed. I have a factory and a shop dependent on me, and personally I have to be commercial.

cial and I have to think internationally."

Judy Mann's clothes are high-quality separates with a sense of Italian style, which is currently the main fashion influence in Hong Kong. Her fabrics are all imported, mostly from Italy, for the colony is a major textile importer.

"What we need is eccentricity," says fashion designer in London at St Martin's and the RCA before going back to his roots in Hong Kong. Ragence Lam is now exploring Chinese culture, cutting funnel and pagoda sleeves, using ethnic accessories like Chinese sandals and coolie hats, and even cutting coats and jackets out of traditional straw matting.

"I am beginning to feel a sense of belonging," he says. "I don't really have any roots, but now that we see more of the mainland Chinese, I feel a need to identify."

The problem for Hong Kong, artificially cut off from its own cultural heritage by British colonial rule and the barriers put up by China itself for the past 30 years, is which part of China to identify with.

Jenny Lewis is fascinated by Imperial China and her collection of antique embroidered robes was the starting point of her fashion career. Now she finds herself an English-born designer to whom the Chinese come for festival *cheongsams*. She also uses skills of mainland China for the elaborate beaded dresses in Western styles which she exports.

Jenny Lewis's dresses, with their rivers of colour flowing, like shaded paints across a simple shift, are made in China, although she finds working with the Chinese a problem as there is no clear chain of command within the factories, and no conception of the demands of fashion.

Chinese culture is delicately expressed in Hong Kong in the lacquer red sausages hanging on the street stalls, in the pale antique jades and porcelain pots, even in the vivid neon signs in Chinese characters on

continued on facing page

MARTINI

THE COOL CRISP TASTE OF  
Martini Extra Dry shines through.  
Once found, never lost.  
It's there to be discovered.

Just in time





## THE TIMES DIARY

### Creamed off

Strawberry Fields forever? Apparently not. John Lennon, whose song immortalised the Liverpool Salvation Army children's home in whose grounds he played as a boy, obviously reckoned without the hard-left city council and its pursuit of "municipalisation". Tomorrow the council is expected to rubberstamp a social services committee decision to stop sending children to voluntary homes such as Strawberry Fields in order to keep open two under-used council-run homes. Captain David Botting, the officer in charge, says that starved of children Strawberry Fields would face closure. Liberal councillors describe the plan as "municipal vandalism" motivated by "blind dogma".

### Speller bound

Secret service spooks listening to phones at CND headquarters would have been intrigued by one of the calls received on Friday. It came from the office of backbench Tory MP Tony Speller, who asked for a copy of the CND booklet *Trident: Britain's Independent Arms Race*. "No, it's not for Mr Speller," conceded the caller when pressed. "It's for Mr Heseltine's private office."

### Bad tidings

The latest "Happy Christmas" edition of *Ford News* is filled with 20 pages of news of record-breaking Ford cars, league-topping sales, and improved salaries – everything, in fact, except mention of the month-long strike that has laid off 10,000 workers, cost them about £600 in pay each and halted production of some £200m worth of cars.

### Book Marx

Foyles had not expected to find itself in the front line of miners' violence. Last Thursday, however, the bookshop found Coal not Dole stickers plastered across the window displaying Nicholas Hagger's *Scargill the Stalinist*. Later protesters invaded the shop itself, and stuck more stickers across the bookshelves. Now Foyles has been threatened with broken windows unless the books are removed. Far from complying, it has ordered more.

### From each

I hate to spoil Mikhail Gorbachov's pilgrimage to Karl Marx's tomb in Highgate cemetery tomorrow but the Chinese have preempted him. Three weeks ago Chinese vice-premier Tian Jiyun made a secret early-morning trip to pay his respects at Marx's tomb during an unpublicised stopover on his way to Africa. The Friends of Highgate Cemetery, struggling to keep the burial grounds open, may not be above trading on Soviet-Chinese enmity, especially where rival claims to the founder of modern communism are concerned. Gorbachov's entourage will doubtless be informed that Tian gave the Friends a generous cheque and the promise of continued support.

BARRY FANTONI



**Hurdle cleared**  
The Foreign Office has given the go-ahead to the latest novel by its former Minister of State, Douglas Hurd, puffed by Hodder as a wry account of the decline and fall of a Foreign Office minister. Hurd and his former private secretary, Stephen Lampert, will put the finishing touches to *The Palace of Enchantment* over Christmas, content in the knowledge that the FO mandarins have accepted their disclaimer: it is set in an "alternative present" where, for instance, awfully upper class ambassador holds the post in a non-existent country.

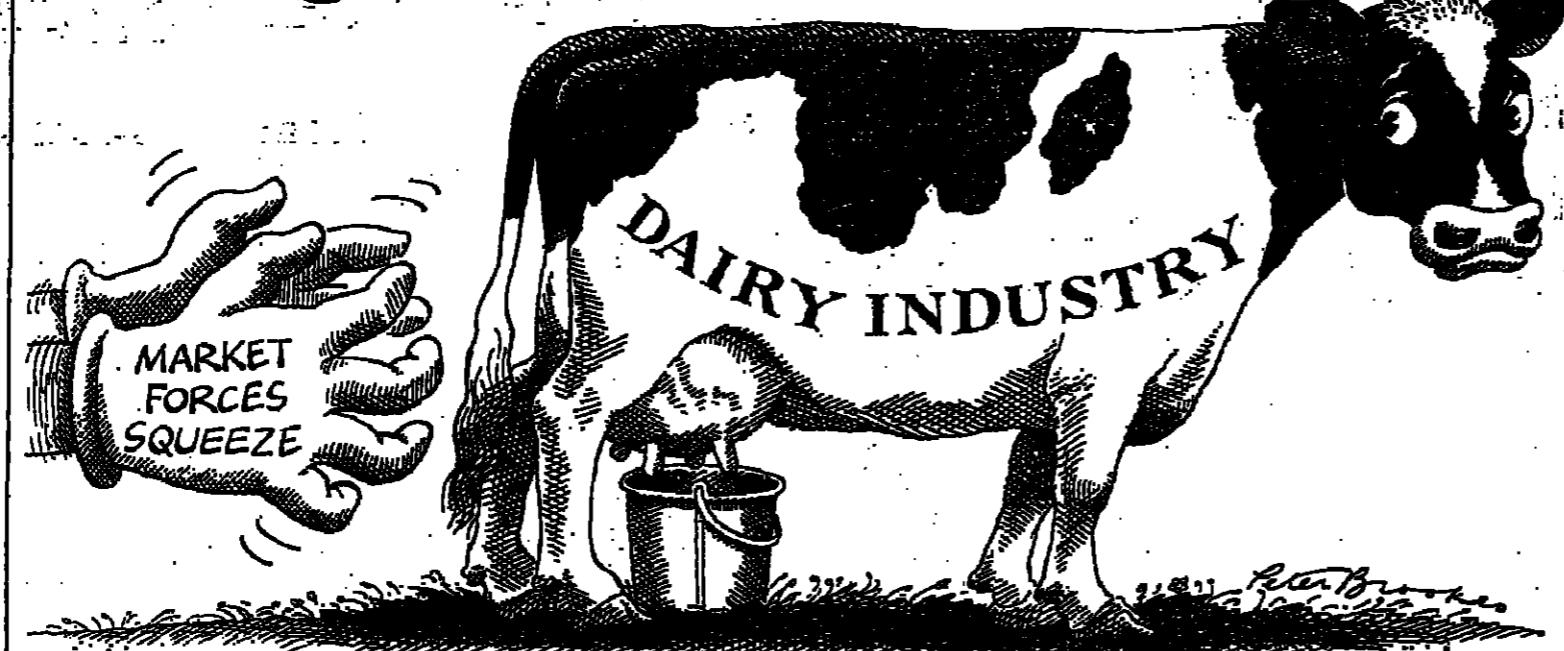
### Orgella

So much for modern music. Various "electro-acoustic pieces" were broadcast recently by the Radio 3 programme *Music in our Time*. Unfortunately the tape of one, by Margaret Sambell, was played backwards. But for the composer, not a listener noticed.

### Eye eye

*Private Eye* has obviously gone soft: after 23 puritanical years, W. H. Smith – dubbed W. H. Smug by the Eye – has agreed to dirty its fingers and stock it from February. Yesterday Smiths insisted it was not the content it had objected to, but the fear of libel action; it is now convinced that distributors are seldom named in actions. Eye editor Richard Ingrams told me: "It doesn't mean we've gone establishment. We're still to win a libel action, and we'll still be calling them Smugs."

# Taking Buttercup to market forces



by John Young

Perhaps the clearest sign that the Government wants a shake-up in British agriculture, with market forces given greater prominence, is its decision to end price controls for milk and to hold an inquiry into the relationship between the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dairy Crest.

The board began life in 1933 as a farmers' cooperative and is still owned by its members. Ironically the man expected to head the inquiry is a former Labour agriculture minister, John Silkin, who has always been considered a staunch supporter of the board and only two weeks ago was appointed an adviser.

The inquiry has been provoked by the board's acquisition of 16 Unigate creameries in 1979. Dairy Crest, which was set up to run the manufacturing operation, is now Britain's largest producer of butter and cheese, with 80 per cent of the home-produced butter market.

Although the board is legally forbidden to sell milk more cheaply to Dairy Crest than to other producers, their close relationship is still suspected and resented within the industry. The European Commission in Brussels has threatened to withhold up to £25m in payments to Britain if it is satisfied that manufacturers have been supplied with milk at artificially low prices.

The price the boards pay to farmers is based partly on the doorstep price for liquid milk, which accounts for about 60 per cent of total sales, and partly on what

Pliny got it wrong (the old fool got most things wrong, if you ask me); it is China, not Africa, from which there is always something new. And nothing could be newer than recent reports that the People's Daily has been hinting that Marx and Lenin can no longer be considered invariably useful guides to economic policy.

The extent of the novelty, mind you, should not be exaggerated. No doubt Messrs Felix Greene and Neville Maxwell, on hearing the announcement, must have had 77 separate kinds of fit, but nobody with a scrap more sense than the Chinese could ever have imagined that Marx and Lenin could be taken seriously as guides to anything but Highgate Cemetery and Red Square respectively.

When the Gang of Four were arrested, following the death of their leader, it could have been regarded as no more than the elimination of a rival group by the new masters, together with the settling of scores. So was, but gradually it became clear that China was set on a new course not only had the insane frenzy of Maoism been brought under control – it would have sooner or later destroyed the country altogether if it hadn't been – but an extraordinary note of realism, quite unknown to any of Stalin's successors except Khrushchev (and even in his case only briefly), began to be heard in China.

Deng has been gradually changing China's economic policies for some time now: Mao managed simultaneously to ruin Chinese industry, agriculture and education, and Deng's attempt at the salvage of all three has been marked by a realism that must be most refreshing to his people. Already, peasants have been given a very limited but apparently genuine economic autonomy, and there has been much talk of a similar encouragement of individual business enterprise. But that need not have been supported by any statement of the Soviet bosses: as the Soviet bosses have shown, anything at all can be said to be in accord with the sacred scriptures of Marx and Lenin, and Deng Xiaoping could have handed over the entire country to Marks and Spencer, or even the Pentagon, while still insisting that he was following the doctrine of the Great Teachers to the letter.

**The NUJ and The Journalist**  
The monthly newspaper of the National Union of Journalists recently had a brief respite from its control by the far-left in the union, a respite used not only to moderate its political screaming, but to turn it into a very good journal, well written and well laid out. Alas, the editor who brought this about, Tony Craig, has gone, and an election for his successor is now in progress. My own Branch, the London Freelance, which is now firmly back in the hands of the far-right – and, incidentally, it is one of the largest in the union, with some 10 per cent of the membership – has held up the despatch of ballot-papers to members, though these have been available for some time; the despatch date will now be Tuesday, December 18, nicely calculated to get delayed, overlooked or even lost in the

## The brief span of Salvador's bridge of hope

Bridges are a favourite target of El Salvador's guerrillas. More than 60 have been blown up since the civil war began. But the guerrillas appeared willing to make one exception, as a token of their commitment to the new peace effort.

A decision to build a bridge spanning the Torola river was the most concrete result of the first talks, in October, between the US-backed government and guerrilla leaders.

The government agreed to lay a bridge over the river and the guerrillas agreed not to destroy it. The river, which runs from east to west across the mountainous northern province of Morazan, has been an unofficial border between army and guerrilla-controlled territory for most of the civil war.

The bridge had been imported by the army from Britain two years ago. An engineer at the construction site described it as a refined, more resistant version of the Bailey bridge, a simple design developed during the Second World War.

Since early 1981 the only way across the Torola river had been through it. Remains of the original



getting ready to come back", said the man, cheerful in the bright heat of the town square. "The bridge means work. It also means the guerrillas and the army are humanizing the war."

The day before the bridge was due

to be opened something happened to show how wishful were the people's expectations of peace. Shots rang out. The crackle of automatic rifle fire was followed, in familiar escalation, by bursts of machinegun fire and then the thud-thud of exploding mortar shells.

A lorry full of soldiers had driven up to the bridge and guerrilla lookouts across the river had opened fire, initiating a 20-minute battle. By

thoughtlessness or design, the accord had been broken.

Lying in a ditch for cover, the bridge workers' buoyancy turned to bitterness. "Remember that old Mexican song," asked one, "the one that goes 'life isn't worth a damn'?"

There were no indications of

guerrilla or army casualties, but one of

the men at the bridge dripped

blood from a bullet wound on the

side of his head. "Down tools, boys,

"we're going home", said the

foreman, feeling betrayed and dis-

gusted.

A few days later the guerrillas

distrust of the army got the better

of their desire for peace. They blew up

the bridge, and with it the hopes of

thousands, an indication that talks

or no talks, it looks like business as

usual in El Salvador's civil war for a

long time to come.

John Carlin

Philip Whitehead

## A tax to channel the BBC's way

It is licence fee time again. Not since the late George Howard took over St Paul's Cathedral to give thanks for the BBC's 60 glorious years have we heard such hosannas to public service broadcasting. The BBC is skilled in these matters. A rise in the licence fee from £46 to £55 is emolliently described as still below the level of inflation in real terms. Wealthy politicians and cheerful professors pronounce the higher fee a real, real value for money. (You can say the same, of course, of Rolls-Royces). The plain unveiled speak of modest expansion all round. Nothing is to be curtailed, or abandoned. The Consumers' Association survey is quoted to demonstrate that the public are willing, nay eager, to pay up to £75 for the service they want.

The BBC is doing too much, because it believes it must do everything. As broadcasting goes it is not notorious for inefficiency but the new dependencies have brought a strain to management as well as to resources, and to production

advertising revenue. The more you have to take, the more they will make you dependent upon it.

In Britain the principle that broadcasting outlets should not have to compete for the same source of funds would be abandoned when the first jingle sold the first soapfluke on Radio 1. The problem for the BBC is that it has already sold the pass on the inviolable licence fee by proposing supplementary charges for the satellite service which it over ambitiously sought to provide.

The BBC is doing too much, because it believes it must do everything. As broadcasting goes it is not notorious for inefficiency but the new dependencies have brought a strain to management as well as to resources, and to production

quality more of all. Sooner or later the BBC governors will have to look at the present staff malaise, which is not just a matter of money. The moment may come all the sooner if the BBC is told that it can only have a £10 increase in the licence, with the poisoned chalice of advertising offered as well. There are those in the Corporation who would seize it.

I hope the governors will ask themselves if the BBC really needs to be majority holder in satellite broadcasting, dominant in local radio, controller of all national radio and over half of national television. Is this the moment when self-government might come to the constituent parts of this broadcasting empire? Might radio now be separated from television, with its own licence fee, and a new editorial voice and thrust for technical innovation? Should other activities, like local radio, be kept within the remit of a national corporation, even a separate one?

If the requested licence fee increase to finance "modest" expansion is both in territory and argument, on the left and right of the political spectrum it hears voices which criticise it for form as well as content. With the Prime Minister entering the lists, the Corporation's counterblast against advertising sounds an uncertain trumpet. It is not, they say, that it is wrong of it to go round, and they wouldn't want to bankrupt the newspapers, independent local radio, or even some ITV companies, would they? The suspicion will linger in some minds, however, that the tactical switch into local radio and into breakfast television, that there is nothing they would like better.

But let us stick to the principle. It is very simple. Any Canadian or Australian will split it out to you. A mixed system changes the game. The will of governments to increase the public commitment varies inversely with the proportion of

some ITV companies, would they? The suspicion will linger in some minds, however, that the tactical switch into local radio and into breakfast television, that there is nothing they would like better.

This could be a time for diversity and richness in public service broadcasting. A debate about the licence fee, conducted solely between the Corporation's irredeemable and the advertising lobby, does not begin to match the issues involved.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North 1970-83.

Roger Scruton

## In mourning for an empty barrel

Edward McKenzie, a tramp who lived in a barrel on a rubbish tip, was buried by Mr Robert Lenkiewicz who called him, in recognition of his singular habits, Diogenes. Mr McKenzie died six weeks ago at the age of 72. His friend, who is a painter, conceived the plan of embalming him, coating him in acrylic, and displaying him naked in his library, where he would perform the function of "a large paperweight".

If a man is chastising you with scorpions, and then abandons the scorpions for whips, you will experience some slight relief. But you would be rather overdoing things if you felt a great rush of gratitude to your tormentor and thanked him most warmly. It is good that a tiny crack of sense has opened in the wall of nonsense that has hitherto surrounded China's economic way of life, not only under Mao but also under Deng. But it is so far only a crack, and even if it should develop into a massive fissure it will mean nothing to the Chinese other than that they may in time become less poor. It is good to be less poor; it is better to be more free. When Deng Xiaoping announced that real freedom is to be permitted to the Chinese, and makes good his claim, I shall believe that there is no right for consenting adults to practise homosexuality in private.

It may be argued that all the political freedoms will follow on the heels of the economic ones; indeed, it will be so argued, by those who are not quite brazen enough to argue that the political freedoms already exist. We have been hearing that claim from South Africa's apologists for years, and there is still no sign of it actually happening. And in any case, there is no sign in China that more than the most limited form of economic freedom is being contemplated.

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I can wait.

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there is no defence, that I know of . . . Molloy.

It seems, however, that Mr McKenzie had found such a defence. Safe in his barrel, in surroundings that no health inspector would willingly penetrate, he saw the welfare state and its work of abject conformity steadily recede from him. There, in that haven of solitude, Mr McKenzie was free at last to fulfil the most basic human need: the need for a personal unhappiness. And there he discovered companionship – the precious state to which sorrow disposes us, and which has no real place in the great project of universal welfare.

Mr McKenzie's proposal has met with strong opposition from Plymouth council, which holds itself bound to discharge of bodies according to the statutory requirements of public welfare, and which has therefore threatened Mr Lenkiewicz with legal action under the Public Health Act, 1984. I assume that Mr McKenzie left no instructions in the matter. How, then, should his remains be treated, and to whom (if anyone) does the duty of disposal belong?

A human corpse is the relic of a human person, and heir to the rights and privileges of the living body. To understand the predicament of Mr McKenzie's corpse, therefore, we should understand the life to which it testifies. In retrospect a human life is like a petition, which we honour at last by conferring dignities and titles on its harmless remainder. For what, then, was Mr McKenzie's covertly petitioning in his barrel, and who has the duty to honour him?

It is a measure of the freedom enjoyed by the British citizen that he may still live as a tramp. Over vast areas of the globe a person who decided to live in a barrel would be instantly suspect, accused of "parasitism", and placed behind barbed wire. For a long time after the invention of the welfare state, good British citizens wondered whether beggars, buskers, tramps and dropouts were still permissible. Should they not be taken into "care"? Should not the state take these people from their misery? "Yes", said the bourgeois conscience, and for a long time "yes" was the received idea.

Fortunately our tramps and beggars have been saved by a singular literary tradition which has constantly reminded us of the value of solitude, and of the natural right of every individual to be unhappy in his own particular way. Beggars – perhaps the greatest defenders of the validity of tramping – saw the danger over a quarter of a century ago. "Let me tell you this, when social workers offer you, free gratis and for nothing, something to hinder you from swooning, which with them is an obsession, it is useless to recoil, they will pursue you to the ends of the earth, the vomitory in their hands. The Salvation Army is no better. Against the charitable gesture

of the public morality of utilitarianism was granted a privilege that his successors would deny to Mr McKenzie. In a cupboard in University College, London, sits the corpse of Jeremy Bentham, embalmed, varnished, and surrounded by a waxen head. On special occasions he is wheeled out to contribute once again to the vain calculation of the profit and the loss.

Contemplating those soft, complacent features, one cannot help thinking how much better Bentham would have looked, and how much less damage would he have done to human life and institutions, had he spent his life on a rubbish dump, sheltered by nothing more indulgent than



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## INDIAN WINTER

By any standards, watching India practise its democracy presents an impressive and awesome spectacle. With less than a week to go before two days of voting over Christmas, the whole country is in the grip of electioneering already, with nearly 5,000 candidates from more than a dozen main parties traversing the sub continent and trailing many more than a dozen political promises for the millions of votes they need.

And by any standards India's example is unarguable evidence that a free and fair vote can be held in Third World state. Yet that practice and that example aside, what worries many Indians is that this exercise might also be a demonstration that elections will not necessarily change anything.

India needs change. Its need has never been greater. In Europe, 1984 has produced its problems, but it has produced for India the worst year since independence. Before the election campaigning started, it had already witnessed the cold-blooded killing of hundreds of Hindus by Sikh terrorists, the storming of the Golden Temple, the resulting deaths of more than a thousand soldiers and militant Sikhs, the assassination of Mrs Gandhi and the subsequent communal madness that shook the north. Each event led inexorably to the next, culminating in the bitter alienation of the Sikh community. This month the tragedy in Bhopal was added to that list.

What this catalogue clearly suggests is that the state of India is beginning to crack open and that the fissures run deep. The

rise of unchecked religious fundamentalism has cut at the roots of its secular identity. Haphazard economic policies and regulations have retarded development whilst encouraging bribery and inefficiency. Worst of all, the conversion of the once enigmatic party system to a cabal of corrupt men has left the country prey to the exploitation of politicians who are not above using its rifts for their own mercenary ends. Only swift and far-reaching changes in the character of India's covenants can heal these wounds.

It was against this backdrop that elections were announced last month. At once they appeared to offer the possibility of a fresh start. An era had ended with Mrs Gandhi, a new dawn would therefore be around the corner. That at least was the hope but as the campaigning has progressed, the performance of India's aspiring politicians suggests that the turning point is being missed and that the country is destined to continue on the old crooked road. This now seems to be the reality. So where does the fault lie?

Perhaps the first disappointment is with the new prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Much had been expected of his youth, his newness and his vaunted desire to drag India into the twenty-first century. In the wake of his mother's murder he could have attempted and got away with almost anything. But, instead of cleansing his party of the inefficient and corrupt he has merely whitewashed it. A few have been dropped but many are retained. Meanwhile, his election rhetoric feeds off the prevalent

insecurities of India, exciting fears of potential domestic and external threats, while ignoring the real sectarian splits that divide the country. So whereas Rajiv Gandhi was to have been the beacon of a better tomorrow, he seems instead to have become the channel for the continuation of the past.

For their part, the opposition are once more betraying whatever hopes were invested in them. Since 1980 they have promised and failed to unify their splintered ranks. Now, with Mrs Gandhi's death, they were faced with a make or break situation. Events could have galvanised them into a credible alliance. If they had succeeded in moulding one, they could possibly have been on the path to victory. But they are not and the chance of real change that would have represented has been lost.

Instead the individual ambition of selfish old men has yet again triumphed over the needs of the nation each of them so desperately wants to govern.

It is therefore a sombre and passionless India that is readying itself to vote. Sensing this, politicians of every hue are jumping aboard the Bhopal bandwagon, outbidding each other in their expressions of sympathy. Once more a tragedy is being diverted for a political gain. But it is too little, because the Indian voter has already seen through these over-used shenanigans, and too late because the damage to Indian politics, like the devastation in Bhopal, has already been done and the opportunity to reverse it is slipping away.

## MR CORBYN'S GAFFE

Anyone who shares the moral sensibility of the vast majority of British citizens will despise and condemn the action of Mr Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour MP for Islington, in inviting two convicted terrorists associated with the IRA to the House of Commons. Mr Michael Cocks, Labour's Chief Whip, voiced the common opinion inside and outside Parliament when he said yesterday that he was "appalled and shocked" by what Mr Corbyn had done. The fact that the visit took place only six weeks after the murders by bombing at the Conservative Party Conference did no more than illuminate the insensitivity of an invitation which would have been reprehensible whenever it was issued. Mr Corbyn, who has publicly declared his support for Sinn Fein (an organization whose "Troops Out" demonstration he has assisted in London) has declared that he "can see no reason why a representative (of the movement) should not visit the House of Commons". If he cannot see that now, there is very little that anyone else can do to give him the required moral vision.

This said, however, there appears to be little in the incident which raises new security considerations at Westminster. Mr Corbyn's two visitors, Mr Gerard McLoughlin, who has served a gaol sentence in England for conspiracy to cause explosions, and Miss Linda

Quigley, who was imprisoned for bomb and firearms offences in Ulster, both passed through the electronic scanning machines on entering the Palace of Westminster, as every visitor now must. Beyond the Central Lobby, moreover, a visitor has to be escorted by a Member of Parliament, as were Mr McLoughlin and Miss Quigley. It is true that a general member of the public who, having reached the Central Lobby, declares that he wishes to visit the public seats in one of the Committee rooms (where, say, a Bill is in progress) can be directed to it unaccompanied. But he or she has to pass successive police points on the way at which he is funnelled in the right direction.

It would, however, be quite impractical (even if it were politically desirable, which it is not) to debar certain categories of people from the House of Commons since admission to the public gallery rightly takes no account of the opinions and reputations of visitors, but only on their behaviour on the premises. How, indeed, could it be otherwise so long as the public galleries are genuinely galleries for the public? Moreover, well over 700,000 visitors a year come to the Houses of Parliament, to galleries, committees, functions and so on, and it is valuable that they should do so. Over recent decades, the formerly relaxed intercourse

between people in public life and members of the public has, alas, had to be constrained. We now have to live with passes, barriers and scanners because of terrorist threats. But it is important that security, as well as being adequate, should not be more constraining than is necessary. There is no reason for it to be tighter than it is at Westminster if Members and others there behave responsibly.

As for Mr Corbyn, he can be left to the moral judgment of his peers in Parliament. To say that he should not have invited these two persons to Westminster is not to suggest any bar on convicted felons who have served their sentences and expiated their offence. It is merely a recognition of the folly of bringing to Westminster people who have had connection with an organization dedicated to its struggle against parliamentary democracy by murder and the bomb, and who have not given any sign of changing their opinions. It is on this point that Mr Corbyn will be found wanting by MPs of all parties, but there is nothing they can do about it. The only people empowered to do anything are those who have the responsibility of selecting and electing him to Parliament. It would be democratically reassuring if they remembered this incident when Mr Corbyn's tenure next comes before them.

## A BREATHING SPACE FOR THE ARTS

The health of the living arts in Britain has long ago ceased, in the public and political consciousness, to be measured in terms of number of new plays put on the boards or tonnage of new sculpture unveiled. The vital figure is the one announced by the Government yesterday: the level at which the Arts Council's grant is to be set for the coming year. If the grant rises by more than the current rate of inflation (as is again the case this year), then the arts are in a thriving condition; if it fails to, then the hosts of the Philistines are held to have overrun the land. It is a reductive mode of assessment, dictated by a method of financing which guarantees a constant whine of dissatisfaction from lobbyists, aggrieved at the Government and at one another. Ministers for the Arts and Chairmen of the Arts Council soon discover, like Ministers of Health, that all they ever find themselves talking about is money.

After the Minister's Christ-mas announcement, the Arts Council broods until springtime on how to allocate its grant to its numerous and plaintive charges. The bagging of special interests is tiresome and somewhat fatiguing, but doubtless the hubbub in the antechamber of the Medici was no more edifying. The business of patronage necessarily implies the clash of rival claims and gnashing of teeth among the disappointed. Artists naturally resent finding their fortunes dependent on the cold judge-

ment of bureaucrats, and yearn for syndicalism: but one can count on it that they would find themselves at least as resentful of the warm judgements of fellow-artists.

As the new leadership of the Arts Council have quickly found,

a bureaucratic largesse is circumscribed by greater constraints than the dispensations of aristocratic patrons were. The arts in general, and individual enterprises in particular, can increasingly count on a vocal constituency of supporters, ensuring that no company of strolling players will simply pack up their props and stroll away without protest if dismissed.

This is not unhealthy, though it may be frustrating, especially in connection with the council's proclaimed strategy of shifting its patronage away from London to give greater support to the provinces. The strategy is correct in the long run, and indeed is only a continuation of a trend pursued since its earliest days. But it is not good policy to endanger successful existing enterprises to promote the hypothetical achievements of untried ones before hypothetical audiences. A steady pace is better than a dash at all costs.

It must be tempting for a government with predispositions like the present one to conclude that the lobbyists' claims could be better sorted out in the market-place rather than in the corridors of power. In fact it has been wisely pragmatic in accepting that a measure of subsidy is

essential to the arts, whose product at the innovative end has historically proved too fragile often to thrive in the market-place. Direct state subsidy in Britain is exceptionally low among developed countries (in France it is five times higher, per capita, and even in the USA it is twice as high). Indirect earnings through tourism and cultural exports make it good policy not to clip the wings of the arts more closely.

In the last ten years business sponsorship in Britain has risen markedly, and the Government's enlightened incentives scheme may help to revive a growth which has shown some signs of faltering. But the sharpest difference between Britain and the USA in this area is in the level of individual support, through subscriptions and friends' associations. The difference is directly related to the very large tax incentives provided in the USA for activity of this kind. The government there unlike ours foregoes in tax far more than it contributes directly in subsidies to the arts. But in our system, already overburdened with distortions, a very strong case would have to be made out to justify movement in that direction – and also guarantees, unlikely to be forthcoming, that any additional rewards won by the arts from the public, would not be clawed back through cuts in the level of direct subsidy, already so small in international terms.

Every year growers lose crops because of pesticide drift from neighbouring land and costs running into tens of thousands of pounds are not uncommon.

The new regulations in the Food and Environment Protection Bill, currently passing through the House of Lords, should stipulate that spray equipment is registered and include provisions for spot checks and fines for faulty machinery to reduce the proportion of unsafe sprayers in operation.

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## Wider national interest at Stansted

From the Chairman of British Caledonian Airways

Sir, Any reading of the newspapers over the last two days could lead one to the conclusion that the debate about the national airports policy is concerned principally with the protection of the countryside and environmental issues mainly connected with aircraft noise.

The inspector, Mr Graham Eyre,

deals with both these issues in his report. He recognises the problem but has argued that the environmental issues are not sufficient to justify the rejection of expansion at Stansted.

There are other issues which, in the national context, are very much more important which have also been addressed by Mr Eyre. It is perhaps necessary to remind your readers of these issues so that the debate about future airports policy does take into account the issues that are important to the nation.

First, air transport is a thriving and growing industry in Britain. Recent growth has been rapid and substantial further growth is predicted. The industry has an excellent record both in employment and creating new jobs. It also has an excellent record in earning foreign currency and in bringing to this country large numbers of foreign visitors who have materially benefited our balance of trade.

For the industry to continue this excellent record, and in particular to it to create substantial numbers of new jobs in the future, there needs to be adequate airport capacity throughout Britain but particularly in the South-east. The inspector has identified very clearly when existing airport resources will be exhausted even if the arbitrary limit of air transport movements at Heathrow is relaxed.

Second, some papers suggest that development of airports in the Midlands, the North, and in Scotland can in some way replace the development of further facilities in the South-east. Airports away from the South-east are all developing strongly, not just because there is a political will for them to develop but because there is a strong demand for air transport which is being met by the development policies of those airports.

All the projections are that the growth of both scheduled and charter services at airports away from the South-east will continue. It will be necessary for those airports to be developed – and BCal is doing this.

A fourth terminal is in process of construction. A fifth terminal could be only a triumph of expediency over every conceivable environmental consideration.

The equation is simple. On the one hand, the interests of a relatively few, very vocal and one suspects, predominantly middle-class dwellers around Stansted, who have never suffered any real inconvenience; on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of west Londoners who have already suffered years of discomfort from Heathrow.

Should not the good people of Essex, a great many of whom commute daily to London, take some small share?

Yours faithfully,

JAMES BOYES,

12 Linver Road,

Parsons Green, SW6.

December 11.

In the newspapers there appears to have

to cope with the increased traffic using the crossing as the rest of the M25 comes on stream.

However, what cannot easily be improved is the capacity of the tunnels themselves to cope with future levels of motorway traffic and I am afraid that Mr Nicholson's plea for the immediate abolition would, by the attraction of even more traffic, only bring forward the time when serious congestion could be a regular feature of conditions at the tunnel.

The councils have been pressing the Department of Transport for some time now to undertake an urgent study of the need to provide additional cross-river capacity and I would hope that the debate on tolls is not allowed to cloud the real issue.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT DANIELS, Chairman,

Dartford Tunnel Joint Committee,

Tunnel Offices,

South Orbital Way,

Dartford,

Kent.

December 7.

in the newspapers there appears to have

council is a model which other organisations could well emulate.

It is entirely right and proper that

government should, from time to time, review funding priorities for overseas as well as United Kingdom activity. It is to be hoped, however, that the British Council which, along with others, has suffered quite substantial cuts in the latest review

will be given appropriately high priority for funding. It promotes the British interest in the world in a unique way and for a country which depends so much on the export of its goods and technology the investment is wholly worth while. The council has done much to build necessary bridges between Britain and the cultures of North and South.

In the fast-changing world in

which we live, where the headlines of the morning can be memories by

the evening, it is all too easy to

forget the need for old bridges to be

maintained and new ones built.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. JACKSON,

Agricultural Director,

Royal Agricultural Society of

England,

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

December 11.

in the newspapers there appears to have

it should also legislate that accurate records of spraying are kept, so that the source of drift damage is more easily traceable. At present it can take up to seven years for a grower to get compensation, even if the source of damage is proved.

Spray and vapour drift is particularly important to the growing number of organic farmers, whose customers are specifically seeking

organic produce.

Yours sincerely,

NIGEL DUDLEY,

Soil Association Ltd,

Walnut Tree Manor,

Haughley,

Stowmarket,

Suffolk.

December 10.

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Yours sincerely,

R. A. WHELTON,

25 Hardwicke Way,

Charlton Kings,

Gloucestershire,

December 8.

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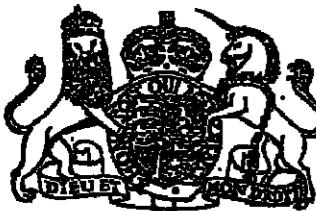
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organic produce.

Yours sincerely,

ALMA DAX,

48 Knightsbridge Court,



## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
December 17: The Duke of Gloucester, President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, this evening attended a dinner to mark the launching of the Association's Diamond Jubilee Year 1985 at the Mansion House, London EC4.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at the Westminster Christmas Appeal Trust's presentation of *The Story of Christmas* at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London W1, and afterwards attended a reception held at Sotheby's, New Bond Street.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
December 17: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a gala performance of the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in aid of the National Playing Fields Association, at Richmond Theatre, Surrey.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

**WEMBLEY**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Lieutenant Commander P. H. J. and Lady Anne Southby, of Blandford Forum, Dorset, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Janson, of London and the Isle of Wight.

**Mr G. D. Alchin and Miss C. A. Cooper**  
The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Mr Peter Alchin and the Hon Mrs Juliet Alchin, of Parkstone, Clenches Farm Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Carolyn Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Cooper, of 11 Minsterley, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, co Durham.

**Mr H. D. Austin and Miss S. M. Hetherington**  
The engagement is announced between Hamish, only son of Mr and Mrs D. H. Austin, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Suzanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. W. Hetherington, of New Malden, Surrey.

**Mr C. I. J. Sanderson and Miss E. H. Rickards**  
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Brigadier and Mrs C. H. Sanderson, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Rickards, and Mrs A. J. Rickards, of Wokingham, Berkshire. The marriage will take place quietly owing to the death of the bride's father.

**Mr Larry Rolland, past-president of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, will be the next president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (Charles Knevitt writes).**

He beat Mr Peter Jones, director of architecture and civic design at the Greater London Council, by 6,910 votes to 2,991.

Ballot papers were returned by 36 per cent of the institute's 28,000 British and overseas members.

Mr Rolland campaigned for making the institute more responsive to its members, providing better support for practices and giving the profession a higher profile. He will take up the post in the summer.

Princess Anne, President of the British Olympic Association, will attend the British National/Arena Nordic Ski Championships in Zell am See, Austria, and South Germany from February 2-6. Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, 14th/20th King's Hussars, will visit her regiment in Hohen, West Germany from February 6-8. Princess Anne will attend the Chelsea Clinical Society's dinner meeting at the Berkeley Hotel, on February 12.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the premiere of *Ordeal by Innocence*, in aid of King George's Fund for Sailors, at the Classic, Haymarket on February 14.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a reception given by the Arts Council of Great Britain and IBM United Kingdom to mark the opening of the Renoir exhibition at the Hayward Gallery on January 28.

A memorial service for Emeritus Professor Robert Whelan, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University, will be held on Saturday, January 26, 1985, at 2.30 pm in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, St James Mount, Liverpool 1.

**WEMBLEY**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hilton, of Aldwick Bay, West Sussex (formerly of Woldingham, Surrey), and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Giant, of London, SW6.

**Mr K. T. McGann and Miss C. M. Fielding**  
The engagement is announced between Kevin, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. McGann, of Cambridge, and Pamela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. C. Fielding, of Bickley, Kent.

**Mr A. J. B. Mitchell and Miss S. D. Bennett**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. Mitchell, of Eaton Terrace, London SW1, and Sharon, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Bennett, of Forestgate, Swanscombe, Kent.

**Mr M. Precious and Miss A. L. H. Brookfield**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Precious, of The Worsters, Arms, Hovingham, Yorkshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. H. Brookfield, of Hesworth Grange, Littleworth, Sussex.

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Sir Neville Ashenden, 84; Sir Brian Batsford, 74; Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, 61; Herr Willy Brandt, 71; Sir Hugh Fraser, 48; Lieutenant-Commander I. E. Fraser, VC, 64; Mr Christopher Fry, 77; Miss Rosemary Leach, 49; Miss Annette Page, 52; Mr Mervyn Rees, MP, 64; Lord Roberts of Clarendon, 94; Major-General Sir Ralph Scones, 24; Mr Joe Wade, 63; the Right Rev R. Williamson, 52.

**Bridge trials date**  
The second weekend of the British Bridge League's trials to determine the open and women's teams to represent Britain in the Common Market championships in Biarritz will take place on January 4-6 at the Grand Hotel Biarritz.

The leaders in the open trials with their carry-forward scores are:

B. Shemilt, W. Coyle 169; S. J. Lodge, 123; R. D. Brannan, 111; A. B. Chapman, 103; Dr. G. W. Price, 94.

**Architects' president**

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He beat Mr Peter Jones, director of architecture and civic design at the Greater London Council, by 6,910 votes to 2,991.

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Mr Rolland campaigned for making the institute more responsive to its members, providing better support for practices and giving the profession a higher profile. He will take up the post in the summer.

**Mr Stephen Winkley, Warden of the Sixth Form Centre at Cranleigh School, to be Second Master and Master-in-College at Winchester College, from September 1985.**

**Latest appointments**

Mr Geoffrey Martin to be Head of the European Community's Press and Information Services in South East Asia.

Mr Bill Griffiths, chief probation officer in Northern Ireland, to be director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations from January 2, 1985.

Dr Stephen Winkley, Warden of the Sixth Form Centre at Cranleigh School, to be Second Master and Master-in-College at Winchester College, from September 1985.

**Science report**

**Clues to wasps that trick flies**

An alien life form wondering how to become a successful parasite on an earth creature would be well advised to study the antics of *Leptopilina heterotoma*, a parasitic wasp. The wasp lays its eggs through the body wall of its fly larvae.

No outward sign distinguishes the usurped larva from an undisturbed one, but all the while a young wasp, instead of a fly, is growing inside the larva's skin.

Two entomologists from the University of Michigan, Dr R. M. and Dr T. M. Rizki, now have some information on how the wasp does it.

Somehow the wasp must disarm just those of the larva's defences directed against itself. The others must be left intact to allow the usurped larva to ward off attacks from bacteria and viruses and to reach maturity.

Normally, when a small foreign body, such as a wasp's egg, is injected into the larva's body cavity, special blood cells, called lamellocytes, wrap themselves around it: the foreign body is encapsulated and rendered harmless.

What is it about *L. hetero-*

### Luncheon

**HM Government**  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at the Mansion House, given in honour of Mr M. S. Gorbachov, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Mrs Gorbachov.

### Reception

**Westminster Christmas Appeal Trust**  
The Duchess of Gloucester was present at a reception given by the Arts Council of Great Britain and IBM United Kingdom to mark the opening of the Renoir exhibition at the Hayward Gallery on January 28.

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## THE ARTS

## Galleries

## Bubbling good humour

Art into Production  
Museum of Modern Art, OxfordArtists Design for Dance  
Arnolfini, BristolSpindler 1900  
Reading Museum and Art GalleryArt Nouveau from the Anderson Collection  
Geffrye MuseumThe Parian Phenomenon  
Chelsea Town Hall

It is a good time for lovers of the applied and decorative arts at the moment — especially if they are willing to travel round a bit outside London. And anyone who tends to bristle snobbishly at the mention of anything less fine than "fine art" should persuade himself to unbristle, since two of the three major new shows within quite easy reach of London contain work in slightly unaccustomed media by artists so irresistibly fine that no one could easily look down on them.

Like Malevich in Art into Production, the absolutely extraordinary, ne-on-any-account-to-be-missed show of Soviet textiles, fashions and ceramics 1917-1935 at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art until February 3. The period, of course, is that of the great conflagration of revolutionary art and design which immediately followed Russia's political revolution and was damped down, if not totally extinguished, by the return to traditionalism, socialist realism and art-for-the-people around 1930. In fact almost everything here dates from the Twenties, and the handful of pieces from after 1930, like the unattributed table service *The Harvest* of 1932-35, do show sad falling-away into boring conventionality compared with what was being done ten years earlier.

But otherwise you could hardly ask for anything brighter.

livelier, more inventive and wholly desirable that the pots and stuff in this show. Even when the titles and subject-matter of these designs sound like a parody of respectable socialist art, the sense of vivid post-Diaghilev colour and the sheer bubbling good humour captivate. What would you expect of a ceramic tray entitled *The Revolution Tears Away the Cobwebs of Prejudice*? Almost anything, I would guess, other than Maria Vasilevna Lebedeva's whimsical brick-coloured winged "whale" flapping through the clouds as it cheerily munches away at a very glistening gilt web across its path. Even Malevich's severe white teapot charms with its very literal "half-cup"; one wonders which came first this or the seaside souvenir fantasy on the same theme.

And, if you are talking about art-for-the-people, what could be more truly popular and approachable than these pots, what more jolly to wear than these happily garish fabrics?

Certainly they use, with the greatest ease and fluency, the language of post-cubist art, but it is so convincingly associated with Russian folk motifs, or cartoon humour that no one could quite take offence unless directed to do so. The wonder is that so much of this until very recently frowned-on art still survives in Russia (the materials of the show come straight from Russia and it may well go back as a show for Moscow too), but then the Russians, as we know, never throw anything away, just in case very likely they even have Stalin himself in cold storage, should his presence ever again be required in the mausoleum on Red Square. And thank heavens for this spirit of good housekeeping, for western design today still has as much to learn from these tearaways of half a century ago as does design in Russia itself.

The name of Charles Spindler, handsomely commemorated at Reading Museum and Art Gallery until January 19, is probably not instantly familiar even to connoisseurs of the Art Nouveau and its period. Being an Alsatian (born 1865; died 1938), he inevitably fell between the artistic stools of France and Germany, never to be decisively claimed by either. And the style of his furniture shows this division — or rather, this very personal fusion: delicate marquetry pictures in the manner favoured by Gallé and other Nancy artists are inserted into decidedly hefty and Germanic pieces of furniture, and some of the examples on show, such as the several variations on the small stool with a vaguely triangular back

A couple of those Russian revolutionaries turn up again in Artists Design for Dance, at the Arnolfini, Bristol, until January 13. The likes of Alexandra Exter are in fact there in support of more recent, mostly British, essays in dance design by such

current artists as Bridget Riley, John Hubbard, Richard Smith, Deanna Petherbridge and, naturally, David Hockney. It is tempting to say that the historical precedents upstairs rather undermine the effect of the recent works below; evidently artists like Michael Ayrton (*Le Festin de l'araignée*, John Piper (*Job*), Edward Burne-Jones (*In the Gorbals*) and McKnight Kauffer (*Checkmate*), not to mention the old Russian pros like Benois, Larionov, Goncharova, Exter and, later, Wakhevich, were really designing for the ballet, whereas on the whole one gets the impression that the newer generation have been commissioned merely to do their usual thing while dancers dance in front of it or, in the case of sculptors like Nigel Hall or Heinz-Dieter Pfeisch, on top of or underneath it.

This is not entirely true: Bridget Riley's works seem to have actually inspired an intense and enlivening collaboration between designer and choreographer, and one or two artists have proved to possess a hitherto unrevealed skill at theatres: Christopher Lebrun, with his vaguely baroque leanings, one might expect to take up where Eugene Berman left off, but it is genuinely surprising how well Deanna Petherbridge's rather sinister architectural fantasies take to the stage. And Hockney, who is represented by designs for Ashton's *Varil capricci*, immediately inscribes himself in the long and respectable alternative tradition, so well illustrated upstairs, by taking stage design as a separate discipline, with its own rules and desiderata, coolly mastering them all.

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which may prove to be a pansy and/or a butterfly (or, as a lady present remarked, E.T.), are inexplicable as either but, we are told, refer to specifically Alsatian peasant designs.

The show, with minor additions and subtractions, has been seen already in Darmstadt and Strasbourg, and at Betty's Tea Rooms, Harrogate. Even given Spindler's enforced cosmopolitanism, this last seems odd, but apparently the inventor of Betty's Tea Rooms was on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary and was there impressed with some of the woodwork which proved to be by Spindler, so he commissioned Spindler to design for Harrogate and two other North Country locations.

In London there are two shows which are relevantly involved with the applied arts. At the Geffrye Museum until December 30 is a selection of Art Nouveau from the Anderson Collection. Nowadays collecting Art Nouveau is a very scholarly and selective occupation, but when Sir Colin and Lady Anderson began in 1962 the area was terra incognita, and those with the bug would tend

to buy anything faintly swirly and floral first, then find out about it afterwards. The show consequently contains many delightful (and many rather camp) objects without established parentage, as well as major pieces by Gallé, Tiffany, Mucha and Majorelle. Indi-

vidually the pieces of jewellery, ceramic, glass and furniture, are usually well worth seeing, but the big come-on is the period charm of the collection as a collection.

The come-on for Richard Dennis's show *The Parian Phenomenon*, at Chelsea Town Hall until Friday, is as much as anything the extraordinary spectacle of the show itself, with amazing pyramidal confections of the distinctive white unglazed china reaching up towards the ceiling in tiered and slightly funeral ranks. The subjects range from portraits of heroes and royalty to elaborate tableaux from romance and legend to affecting Victorian scenes like *The Last Kiss* (little girl kisses dead bird before burying it). Not all is pure white: some few pieces are coloured all over, and several have just utilitarian touches. But mostly it is white and pure and rather ghostly. For anyone in need of further information, Mr Dennis is as usual accompanying the show with a book, due early in the New Year, which is likely, as usual, to be the last word on its subject.

John Russell Taylor

## Opera

## Bruson scores heavily for early Verdi

I due Foscari  
Teatro Regio, Turin

Undeterred by their increasingly precarious financial position, Italy's major opera houses have at last begun to take seriously the revival of interest in early Verdi. The lesson of recent productions in Milan and some of the provincial theatres is that first-class casting and a kid-glove approach to staging are essential if the energetic vocal writing and skeleton/dramatic structure are to be projected in a flattering light. On these terms, the production of *I due Foscari* at Turin ranks, like the opera itself, as a fragile success.

The deciding factor has been the participation of Renato Bruson, whose loyalty to the theatres that were the training ground for his international career has won this production at the Teatro Regio the kind of popularity normally reserved for mainstream repertory. The very size of Bruson's performance reinforces the case for regarding *I due Foscari* — coming directly after *Ernani* and before *Giovanna d'Arco* — as a harthouse's opera. It is an impression supported by the almost precocious stature of Verdi's writing for the Venetian Doge and his preoccupation, while still only 30, with the personification of fatherly love and public office that was to develop such force in later operas.

Bruson's tonal amplitude is ideal for the part of the



Rare champion of *bel canto*: Renato Bruson (right) with Nicola Martinucci

octogenarian Foscari; he sings with phrasing of deceptive spaciousness and with a clarity of diction and technical agility that distinguishes him as a rare champion of *bel canto*. These assets are to be cherished, as Bruson illustrated in his two principal arias, where his mature fusion of vocal and dramatic skills was a summation of Verdian authority and humanity. His ensemble singing showed the same consideration, and in the final tableau his stooped, tottering gait and controlled passion made the rudimentary ending both plausible and moving. The son and daughter-in-law

of the Foscari household on this occasion had the character of problem children, unable to ignite Verdi's melodies or draw character out of stereotype. As Jacopo, Nicola Martinucci illustrated once again how unintelligently he uses a good voice, while the miscasting of Dunja Vejzovic as Lucrezia had particularly unfortunate consequences in the large tableaux, where her inability to rise above the ensemble forced the conductor to shade the dynamics — much to the detriment of Verdi's stately crescendos. All sections in the pit treated their parts with love and respect — the orchestral score in this opera is

one of its most unexpected assets — but Maurizio Arena's deference to the relentless interruptions for applause gave the performance little chance to develop its own momentum.

The staging was by Sylvano Bussotti, whose appetite for ugly drop-curtains further compartmentalized the opera's structure. He did have the sense, however, to leave a clear stage for the Doge's ruminations; these scenes alone, with Tono Zancanaro's costumes and decor, realized the simple grandeur of this short and appealingly direct work.

Andrew Clark

This is an arguable point, and in any such discussion it is important to produce examples. Which Mr Delaney and his guests then proceeded to do: the theoretical controversy soon came down (or, rather, up) to the swapping of funny stories. As William Trevor explained, there is still a tradition of oral story-telling in Ireland — although he did not add that most of its practitioners now work in television.

The larger point, obliquely put last night, was that some glory has departed from the English language — certainly it seems a much starker and less resonant thing than its nineteenth-century equivalent — and that this denuded fate is one which Irish-English has managed partly to avoid. This was an interesting and even entertaining discussion — Frank Delaney himself was clearly in his element, which has not always been the case during this series.

Peter Ackroyd

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Ironically, the best moments were when Reed revisited his most commercial phase, one he

subtly it by removing its practicality and "meaning", substituting for these dull native characteristics a quality of music or incantation. And it is also the case that, given the evident fact that the Irish are good talkers, there is a rhetorical intention behind those beautiful cadences which writers like Joyce and Yeats were not slow to exploit.

By the time Mr Norris had finished, the discussion was moving along nicely — with the novelist Jennifer Johnston asserting that the Irish were not a middle-class people and that as a result they have been more vigorous or courageous in their application of language to reality.

One academic, David Norris, suggested that the Irish experience an amount of discomfort in employing English at all — certainly it is true that they tend

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY  
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## High politics ends the Governor's honeymoon

As honeymoons go, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's with the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street has been unusually lengthy. Yesterday it came to an abrupt end when the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a full frontal attack on the Bank of England's competence in the important area of banking supervision.

Rumblings of political dissatisfaction, which began with the eruption of the Johnson Matthey affair, last week reached seven on the Richter scale. It can have come as no surprise to the Governor when Mr Nigel Lawson told the Commons yesterday that he had ordered a full review of present arrangements for banking supervision where weaknesses had been highlighted by the forced rescue of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

An investigating team made up of Treasury and Bank of England representatives and an independent consultant will consider whether a more effective supervisory framework is required than that provided by the 1979 Banking Act.

By its own admission, the Bank was tardy in responding adequately to the problems it said it had long known existed at Johnson Matthey Bankers. The final solution – nationalizing JMB – could hardly have been less palatable to Mrs Thatcher and her closest Cabinet colleagues who immediately began distancing themselves from the whole unsatisfactory business.

Their embarrassment deepened when Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, saw his opportunity to admonish both Government and Bank – and took it with characteristic flair.

Neither Mrs Thatcher nor Mr Lawson forgive easily. The laser beam of their disapprobation was quickly focused on the deputy-governor of the bank, Mr Christopher Kit McMahon, whose five-year term happens to end early in the new year. In so far as he can be held responsible for the Bank's shortcomings Johnson Matthey Bankers, then he has some explaining to do. That said, the inspired attacks on his position smack of the worst kind of West End politicking.

It is therefore up to the governor to defend his deputy from politically motivated pressures which may have more to do with the fact that Mr McMahon is closer in his private political convictions to Dr Owen than to Mrs Thatcher.

The notion that the deputy-governor is not as "sound" as all good Thatcherites would wish might have mattered less if Mrs Thatcher had chosen a different man to succeed Lord Richardson. By nature, temperament and ability, Mr Leigh-Pemberton was always destined to be more of a chairman of the Bank and less of a Governor in the traditional, executive sense. It followed that the deputy-governor, a man of great technical ability and considerable central banking experience, would assume the managing director role. Not to put too fine a point on it, Mr McMahon's authority cannot help but spread across the Bank of England spectrum. As Mr Leigh-Pemberton's appointment was inspired by the Prime Minister's belief that after Lord Richardson the political balance in the Bank needed to be sharply redressed, it is not difficult to understand any move that might undermine Mr McMahon.

The risk is that the deputy-governor may already feel that his position has been made untenable and his only option is to leave the Bank. Such a decision would reflect no credit on anyone. Moreover, it would undoubtedly damage the Bank both in the City and abroad.

The apparent failings in the Bank's supervisory responsibilities, which cannot advance the career of Mr Peter Cooke, head of banking supervision, are a matter

of genuine public concern. Weaknesses in this area were exposed – and the public cost was huge – in the 1973-74 secondary banking collapse. The Bank's intelligence channels through the discount office, had become blocked.

The tragedy of errors which had led to that situation has not been fully revealed. Suffice to say, the Bank recovered well, and the lifeboat was launched with a tough, experienced and knowledgeable crew, which included the then deputy governor, Sir Jasper Hollom and the Wise Mr George Blunden.

The long-term political response to the debacle of the early seventies was the 1979 Banking Act. Much bureaucracy came in and much sensitivity went out of the system as a result. At the same time, it is evident, notwithstanding the continuing presence of the Bank court of both Sir Jasper and Mr Blunden, that the Bank has let the supervisory system slip below that standard required. Mr Lawson is right to want to know why.

## BAT's £664m choice keeps City guessing

In the space of a year BAT Industries has announced acquisitions in the financial services sector worth more than £1.5 billion. Ironically perhaps the company's purchase of Hambro Life has left many in the City wondering exactly what BAT is intending to achieve. It is hoping to build a new integrated financial structure, or is it simply picking up attractive equity investments in a favoured field?

Potential clearly exists in the fact that Hambro Life relies on a large sales force while BAT's earlier acquisition, Eagle Star, has none. This could give Eagle Star the opportunity to market its non-life products, such as house or car insurance, more widely through Hambro Life's 2,800 salesmen. Yet the terms of the acquisition virtually ensure that the two companies not only remain entirely separate but continue to compete with each other as much as ever.

The reasons for this have much to do with Hambro Life's structure. One of the principal reasons for the company's failure to live up to Charterhouse J. Rothschild this year was the opposition of its sales force. Salesmen were worried that their management would be diverted into new areas of interest and would cease to provide them with attractive new products to sell. They were also unhappy at an erosion of their incentive schemes.

BAT has succeeded where CJR failed by giving the all-important Hambro Life sales force what it wanted. It has paid a high price to keep the top management, all of whom have agreed to stay with the company for a further five years. It has given the company virtual autonomy. And it has promised to maintain the level of incentives.

Another avenue of development for BAT's new financial services arm would be to build the kind of all-in-one financial supermarket which Mr Mark Weinberg is known to be keen on.

Alternatively, BAT could continue on the acquisition trail and buy its own bank or stockbroker. Mr Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, appeared to rule this out by saying that BAT would make no new acquisitions in the United Kingdom financial services.

Mr Sheehy has stated that BAT's primary interest in acquisitions is to buy companies with high growth potential.

Over the much longer term a more integrated financial services group may emerge. In the meantime BAT has paid a lot for having the choice: at £664 million Hambro's exit price is 24.

## State to sell stake in Norton

By Jeremy Warner

Norton Villiers Triumph, once a powerful force in the British motor cycle industry, is hoping to make a comeback. The Government has agreed to sell its remaining shareholding in the company, freeing it from commercial restriction.

Manganese Bronze, Norton's parent group, announced yesterday that it is buying the Government's interest in the preference share capital for £375,000.

After years when it made very little, Norton has recently produced at its factory at Stanhouse, near Birmingham, about 130 sample models of its rotary engine motorcycle.

These are on trial with 19 British police forces, two of which have indicated that they want to place follow up orders.

Mr Roger Poore, Manganese Bronze chairman, said that with government restrictions now lifted, Norton could set about raising the fresh capital it needs. He thought a big problem in this venture would be Norton's remaining 13,000 shareholders.

"Norton shares have been changing hands in unofficial dealings at between 2.5p and 5p but in reality they are worth nothing," Mr Poore said.

The Government became involved with Norton in 1973 when Mr Edward Heath's administration put up £4.9 million of aid to help group together the then separate companies of BSA, Triumph and Norton Villiers.

## BL seeks Russian deal

By John Lawless

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, his most immediately important industrial visit to Britain this week will be to the Austin-Rover plant at Cowley, Oxford.

It is understood, is among the front-runners to win a contract to completely refurbish, reequip and help introduce new car models at the Moskvitch factory in Moscow.

During a morning visit, Mr Gorbachev, a senior Politburo member, will be shown the efficiency that has been achieved on the Maestro and Montego production lines as a result of £200 million worth of investment in the past two years.

## MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		close	\$316-\$316.50	(\$265.00-\$265.50)
FT Ind Ord	938.9(+2.9)			
FT-A All Share	n/a			
FT Govt Securities	82.30(-0.36)			
FT-SE 100	1212.5(+4.7)			
Bargains	27.343			
Datastream USM	105.44(+0.43)			
New York	1173.03(-2.87)			
Dow Jones	1145.67(+54.97)			
Tokyo	2889(+253)			
Nikkei Dow	11455.67(+54.97)			
Hong Kong	1168.42(+24.33)			
Hong Kong	173.0(+0.9)			
Amsterdam	714.2(+4.5)			
Sidney: AO	1073.2(-4.4)			
Frankfurt	157.74(+0.03)			
Commerzbank	180.5(-0.2)			
Brussels	318.20(-0.10)			
General	157.74(+0.03)			
Paris: CAC	180.5(-0.2)			
Zurich	96.0(-0.1)			
SKA General	96.0(-0.1)			
GOLD	London fixing: £316.85pm-\$315.			

## Pegi blocks Dunlop's £70m capital reconstruction

By Ian Griffiths

Dunlop Holdings has had to delay the announcement of its capital reconstruction package after the failure of the Malaysian Pegi Corporation, which owns a 26 per cent stake in the ailing tyre and industrial products group, to agree terms.

The two Pegi representatives on the Dunlop board were in London last week for two meetings but no agreement was reached on the details of the package. Pegi is understood to be concerned at the amount of debt which would be converted into equity by the banks, which are propping up Dunlop with loans of about £380 million.

It had been suggested that the banks would convert about £70 million of debt into equity. This would be offered immediately to existing shareholders and new institutional investors to raise funds. Pegi, however, is concerned at the level of dilution in its interests and would prefer the banks to

restrict the amount of loan conversion.

Sir Michael Edwards, Dunlop's chairman, had hoped to announce the details of the reconstruction package tomorrow but he has now written to shareholders to explain that there will be a further delay. The best hopes now are that a package can be agreed early in the new year.

In his letter Sir Michael says: "In view of the many different parties and the complexity of the issues involved the terms of the financial reconstruction proposals are likely to take some while to settle."

He also provided a broad outline of the proposals which confirm that Dunlop will seek to raise new equity capital from existing shareholders and from new institutional investors. There will also be some conversion by the banks of their loans into equity.



Sir Michael Edwards: further delays

However, Sir Michael warns shareholders: "The amount of new share capital required is considered to be far beyond the capacity of ordinary shareholders to provide. The proposals for the financial reconstruction will therefore involve a substantial dilution of

your holdings."

Sir Michael has also some indication of the group's future strategy which will involve a combination of rationalisation, capital spending, further strengthening of management and, where appropriate, selective acquisitions and divestments.

It has always been anticipated that part of the Dunlop reconstruction would involve substantial asset sales. Although Sir Michael gives no indication of what form these assets sales will take or of the funds they would raise he said that the group would develop its most competitive businesses. This allows him the flexibility to make appropriate divestments.

The Dunlop Shareholders Association, which represents the interests of small shareholders, has already proposed its own package for Dunlop's future which includes substantial asset sales, including a complete withdrawal from tyre manufacturing.

## CBI forced to cancel conference

In an embarrassing climb-down, the Confederation of British Industry has been forced to cancel a conference to examine the revolution taking place in the City, because of lack of interest.

The speakers were to have included Mr Alex Fletcher, Under-Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs; Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower, the Government's adviser on company law; Mr David Walker of the Bank of England, and Mr Jeffrey Knight, chief executive of the Stock Exchange.

Up to 250 delegates were expected to attend the CBI's headquarters for the conference tomorrow, but acceptances were received from only 20.

## Maxwell sells

Mr Robert Maxwell has sold almost 3 per cent of John Waddington shares since his £4.4 million takeover bid failed in April. His British Printing & Communication Corporation has sold just under 1 per cent and Pergamon Press Inc, an overseas associate, has sold 1.89 per cent. Mr Maxwell retains just over 20.56 per cent.

## Brewers' tonic

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries has reported pretax profits of £37.5 million for the half year to October 28, up from £31.6 million. Turnover increased from £348 million to £354.2 million. The interim dividend of 1.9p is up from 1.75p last time.

Tempus, page 19

## Profits rise

The Stock Conversion and Investment Trust's pretax profits for the half year ended September 30, rose by £1m.74 million to £29.48 million. Dealing profits increased from £3.48 million to £3.54.2 million. The interim dividend rose 25 per cent to 2.5p per share. Earnings per share were 9.89p.

Tempus, page 19

## £3/4m salary

Mr Richard Giordano, (above), chairman and chief executive of BOC, looks to be running away with the title of Britain's highest-paid executive for the fifth year running. Mr Giordano had a £250,000 salary rise last year to £771,600, an increase of 48 per cent, according to 1983-84 BOC annual report. Mr Giordano stressed that his salary was fixed on an annual basis by the BOC board and measured against comparable pay for other to United States directors. About £100,000 of the salary increase reflected the strength of the dollar against sterling while the balance came from a straight rise.

Tempus, page 19

## China buses

British Electric Traction Company has paid £500,000 through its United Transport International offshoot for a 30 per cent interest in Citybus, which operates bus services in Hong Kong. BET recently won a licence to operate the first luxury bus service between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in the bordering mainland China special economic development zone.

## Economic forecast in doubt

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The longer leading indicators for the economy rose strongly last month, casting doubts over earlier official expectations of a slowdown in the economy from next March.

The leading index, based on partial information, rose from 107.2 in October to 108.7 in November, as a result of rising share prices and lower interest rates.

The other three composite leading indicators – shorter leading, coincident and lagging – also rose.

Whitehall statisticians began predicting a March 1985 slowdown in the economy when

exceeded the previous peak of 110.1, recorded in February and March this year.

The Central Statistical Office is standing by its position that the economy is likely to encounter a turning point next March, but it is conceded that the evidence is now "a little weaker than hitherto."

The main difficulty for the statisticians has been ironing out the effects of the long-running coal strike, and the two short dock strikes. It now appears that financial markets overreacted to these industrial disputes earlier this year, to be continued until the end of next year, with tougher conditions aimed at reducing increasing losses.

But it is only a reprieve for the three-and-a-half year old scheme whose future will depend on losses being reduced proportionately, said Mr David Trippier, minister responsible for small businesses in the Department of Trade and Industry.

The failure rate of businesses involved in the scheme has worsened to 1 in 2.5, compared with the 1 in 3 rate suggested in the last Robson Rhodes accountancy study of the scheme's prospects.

Mr Trippier said: "I want this scheme to work, but certainly the losses rate at the moment is unacceptable."

Banks' exposure to risk in the extended scheme will remain the same as in the last six months, with the Government guaranteeing 70 per cent of loans.

The charge to borrowers of a 5 per cent premium stays the same, despite criticisms that it increases the financial burden on a new small business effectively a 1.1 per cent increase, compared with the first version of the loan scheme.

But it will now be mandatory for lenders like the banks to insist on minimum standards of appraisal. This means a small business will have to provide an effective business plan. Minimum standards of financial reporting will be mandatory, which means more frequent monitoring once a small business is operating.

On the banks' role in the scheme, Mr Trippier said: "It is clearly a reflection of their ability effectively to monitor the businesses that the losses rate was as high as it has been."

Monitoring, he said, would preferably be in the hands of a chartered or certified accountant and acting for the small business, but Mr Trippier was prepared to mobilize his department's small companies counselling service to help or to

## WALL STREET

## Early fall for Dow

New York (Agencies) - The Wall Street stock market was mixed in the early trading yesterday in moderate trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average which gained 7.07 to 1,175.91 on Friday, was down 1.66 to 1,174.25 at 11 am.

The New York Stock Exchange index was up 0.09 to 94.01 and the price of an average share was up 4 cents.

Declining issues led to a trading issues 596-591 among the 1,708 traded.

First-hour big board volume amounted to about 21,510 million shares, compared with 21,790 million in the same period on Friday.

Union Carbide fell 1 1/4 to 35. IBM fell 7/8 to 118. Digital Equipment fell 1/2 to 104 and Textron Instruments fell 1/2 to 112.

AT & T rose 1/2 to 54 1/2. Chevron rose 1/2 to 54 7/8 and Sun Company rose 1/2 to 47 1/2.

Usoc fell 1/2 to 37 1/2.

The lack of a draining move by the Federal Reserve Board with federal funds at 8 per cent has convinced many in the market that the central bank has eased policy further.

Funds were trading at a session low of 7 3/4 per cent. Many now expect another 50 basis-point reduction in the discount rate soon.

Matched sale-purchase agreements were widely ex-

pected.

Dunlop Holdings: Mr J. B. Roberts, Dr. D. L. Spears and Mr F. F. Picken have become directors of Dunlop Engineering International.

Brian Reidy: Mr Jess Tigar has joined the board of Rudolf Wolff Financial Services.

Control Risks: Mr Michael Martin has been made a director.

M & G Reinsurance: Mr T. W. J. Manley (General Ad-

ministration) and Mr R. G.

Willmott (Information Services, Cheltenham) have become chairman and secretary respectively.

Cow & Gate: Mr Michael Whitcroft became UK market-

ing director.

North Eastern Gas: Mr

Norman Blacker has been

named regional chairman from

January 15.

London Enterprise Agency:

## COMMODITIES

## LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Trading in £s per tonne  
Coffee, cacao in pounds per  
metric tonne;

Gas, oil and steel in US\$

etc. (Figures in £s per tonne)

G. W. Jeayson and Co report

RUBBER

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Feb 500-500

Mar 500-500

Apr 500-500

May 500-500

Jun 500-500

Jul 500-500

Aug 500-500

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## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Lucas slumps after profits warning

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltman

Lucas Industries took a battering yesterday as analysts carried away disillusioned from the company's group's annual meeting.

Sir Godfrey Messervy, the chairman, told shareholders and observers: "Recent strikes at British vehicle builders - Jaguar, Austin Rover - and the current dispute at Ford have restricted sales and disrupted production with an unfortunate short-term impact on profit recovery".

That was enough to wipe out early gains and send the shares down to 259p, a 10p loss on the day.

At the annual profits announcement just three weeks ago no mention was made of the impact of industrial troubles and the analysts' theme song was "full recovery ahead" for the car and electronic supplier. But now City men are rushing to cut their forecasts for 1985, and are taking an especially poor view of the first six months, which end in January.

Mr Bob Barber, at Phillips & Drew, had already cut his estimate, from around £60 million to £53 million, before the annual meeting, but believes yesterday's news will cause many of his rivals to think more in terms of profits in the "low 50s". Mr Barber will hang on to see how long the Ford strike lasts before reviewing the prospects again, but now says "£54 million looks like the top line for 1985".

In the year to last July, Lucas produced profits of £32.6 million, against just £2.1 million in 1983. The massive turnaround to profits on the automotive business brought hopes that the group would return to the high profit levels of the late 1970s.

The sharp trimming of the Lucas' share price after lunch yesterday contributed to the top 30 shares going off the boil as the day wore on. The FT 30-share index, after being up more than 9 points at one stage, closed just 2.9 points higher on the day - still a new peak of 938.3.

The FT-SE 100-share index showed much the same pattern, touching 1217.4 at 10 am, but closing at 1212.5, just 7.7 points up.

Among leading shares, Imperial Chemical Industries did

its best to push the indices into even higher ground. The shares jumped 10p to 730p as market men continue to show their appreciation of the group's purchases in America. ICI last week paid £225 million for the chemicals businesses of Beatrice Foods Inc.

BOC Group went up higher to 266p on City hopes that the group might sell its loss-making US operations. Blue Circle also managed a 10p rise to 483p on a

chemicals' interests to ICI last week.

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman, says: "We're not making any commercial sense at this stage for someone to try and take us over. Let us settle down. But I cannot speak for the future."

Mr Kalms said he thought the price was going up because the Currys deal was being recognized as a good one and was attracting some "solid institutional buying".

On the brewery pitches share prices responded to market optimism for consumer spending in 1985. Retail sales could be better than previously expected, as inflation sticks at around 5 per cent a year and earnings look like rising by more than 7 per cent. Two per cent, or more, of real spending power will pass over pub counters, the analysts hope.

Bass rose 10p to 478p, Grand Metropolitan 7p to 320p, Arthur Guinness & Sons 6p to 194p and Scottish & Newcastle, alongside its better-than-expected results, 4p to 136 1/2p.

There were gains of a few pence for the smaller brewers too.

The Bass price is another peak for the shares, and mark a near 30p gain in the past two market trading days. Mr Neil Scourse, analyst at stockbroking firm Fielding Newsom-Smith, says: "Bass has come out of the

firm building and construction sector, and there were gains for Imperial Group, Marks & Spencer and British Telecom.

Electrical group Dixons refused to leave the spotlight following the success of its takeover bid for Currys.

Speculation that Dixons itself could now fall to a predator was reflected in a 7p rise in the shares to take them to a year's high of 514p.

BAT Industries is still keen on the speciality retailing sector - and none fits that category better than Dixons/Currys - although even the energies of Mr Patrick Steeby, the chairman, are sure to be taxed to the full by integration Haimbridge onto the group's broadening financial services arm.

One name mentioned as a possible bidder was the American-owned Woolworth group - unrelated to the UK chain - but from New York. Mr John Cannon, vice president and treasurer, said: "Our interest remains in speciality retailing in North America at present. I am not aware of any interest by our company in Dixons."

The Dixons buying was put down to "idle Christmas

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## Shop rents forecast to exceed inflation

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Shop rents look set to surge ahead of inflation into the middle of 1986. They are currently rising at 7 per cent a year in real terms and should keep up this trend until next spring. Growth will then slow but still outstrip inflation until 1986.

The forecast comes from the latest survey of shop rents by Hillier Parker & Rowden, the chartered surveyors.

The forecast is based on the relationship between retail profits which lagged for one year and personal disposable income. It says that retail profits have risen rapidly and although the rate of increase is beginning to slow down it will still have an upward influence on shop rents for some time.

Hillier Parker predicts that inflation will stay near its present level of about 5 per cent

and that rents will grow between 9 and 13 per cent a year over the next 18 months. If this fairly modest rise is maintained it will still be only half the increase seen during 1977-1979, boom years for retailing.

The company says that its survey reveals a fundamental change in the market for prime high street retail property, in that it no longer responds to

economic events as it did in the past. Other less fashionable forms of shop property have responded better to rises in retail sales volume than the high street, traditionally the most favoured form of retailing.

Small towns and secondary locations have seen rental levels more responsive to the volume of sales.

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## R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

*(Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America)*

Authorised

300,000,000

Common Shares of no par value

*Including 2,710,807 shares reserved for issue*

Issued, and reserved  
for issue at  
30th September, 1984

116,119,826

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 116,119,826 shares of common stock of R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. listed on the New York Stock Exchange as issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. are available in the Exetel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 2nd January, 1985 from:—

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,  
33 King William Street,  
London EC4R 9AS

Rowe & Pitman,  
1 Finsbury Avenue,  
London EC2M 2PA

18th December, 1984.

The man who has negotiated for British banks during the height of the Latin American debt crisis retires this week

Nobody could have been more appropriately schooled for the totally unexpected task of having to reschedule \$300 billion (£250 billion) worth of Latin American debt than Mr Guy Huntridts.

Nineteen years ago, while two-thirds through a 30-year career with the Bank of England, he helped Brazil establish its central bank — with which, in the past two years and now as head of Lloyd's Bank International's Latin American division, he has been negotiating on behalf of all British banks.

Two years later, in 1967, he became Britain's alternate executive director at the International Monetary Fund. He was there throughout the period when Britain went through a dress rehearsal, forced to devalue the pound and accept an IMF-monitored economic recovery programme in exchange for a £1 billion loan — which first Mexico and, most recently, Argentina have now re-enacted.

He went into the latest debt crisis "after many years of being intimately concerned with Latin America", he says, "of knowing the countries and a lot of the relevant personalities at first hand", and having also been "through the economic adjustment process when Britain was at the sharp end and when its policies were under strict IMF scrutiny".

But for the Falklands conflict

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

## Portrait of a debt rescheduler

By John Lawless



Guy Huntridts: firm but sophisticated negotiator

bloody shovel — provided you do it gracefully."

Mr Huntridts has also been on the Uruguayan committee, but became deputy chairman of the Brazil committee after a reshuffle of its bank members about two years ago. His presence on it at the top, the international financial community agrees, was crucial to the whole Latin American debt rescheduling programme that was to follow.

"Phase one of the Brazilian operation had been a sham," an American banker recalled last week, "after the Brazilians had walked into a meeting declared 'This is what the banks have got to do' and walked out again.

"They then had to go into phase two, last year, seeking the exceptional amount of \$6.5 billion in new money, with the world's financiers backing off triple-fast. If Brazil had gone under then, and Mexico too, as seemed highly possible, total of those bankers would have gone with them."

The LBI team of Mr Huntridts and a younger executive, Mr Christopher Brougham, is credited with being inventive: in the call of their bank's (undisclosed) exposure. "They managed to change, for example, the way banks thought about their inter-bank, or six-month, lending of excess liquidity," the US banker added. "In

stead of pulling it out, they convinced banks that it was viable for them, and essential for all, to keep that cash in longer."

It was, however, the partnership of Brazil that quickly grew between the new committee chairman, Mr Bill Rhodes, a senior vice-president with Citicorp, and Mr Huntridts, that was to provide a crucial part of the long-term framework for the whole Latin American rescheduling programme.

In the frantic race to eight weeks of telephoning 700 banks worldwide to get commitments to Brazil's \$6.5 billion loan, observers say that the cigar-smoking Mr Rhodes contributed the US-style, never-give-up aggressiveness, while Mr Huntridts' British sophistication and quiet determination was the perfect foil.

At 10.30pm on the night before the commitments' deadline, a telex arrived in New York from a Spanish bank for \$10 million pushing the total through \$6 billion. "Gentlemen," Mr Huntridts told an informal committee dinner, "the impossible has just been achieved" (in the end they scraped together \$10 million more than needed).

Some of Mr Huntridts' declarations have gone into financial folklore. He once told a debtor, who complained he had not had "complete justice", that such a thing could only be got on the day he "met the Great Rescheduler in the Sky".

Plain-speaking has got Mr Huntridts a reputation of being an extremely hard negotiator — but his bank committee colleagues got it right when, at a farewell dinner in New York last week, they gave him a t-shirt. It was inscribed with the words: "Speak softly, but always carry a sword of steel".

Least anyone should think that Mr Huntridts has only applied tough principles to poor Third World countries in the past three years, there are IMF officials who remember him telling a visiting official who was asking for a massive standby credit, that "We cannot behave like that".

That happened in 1969 — and the official was British.

## Pretax loss cut sharply at Redfearn

By Alison Eadie

The reorganization of its glass container business helped Redfearn National Glass to produce an operating profit of £1.1 million in the year to September 30 compared with a loss of £2.1 million.

At the pretax level a loss of £225,000 was registered against a previous loss of £3.7 million, but an extraordinary credit of £856,000 resulted in an attributable profit of £612,000 compared with a loss in 1983 of £9.2 million.

The extraordinary items came largely from the sale of properties surplus to requirements.

Turnover decreased by 11 per cent to £56.5 million following the consolidation of glass operations at a single site. RN Plastics made its first full-year profit of £110,000 against a loss of £238,000 in 1983.

The company says the more favourable trend in profitability has continued in the early part of the current financial year and it views 1985 with confidence. Despite the recovery, a nominal dividend of 0.1 per share was recommended for the second year running.

The shares rose 9p to 55p on the results.

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1984 £1983 £1983  
£000's £000's £000's

8,870 7,728  
613 18

Profit on investment activities 9,483 7,746

Dealing Profits 4,200 3,828

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation 5,283 3,918

Estimated taxation 105 194

Profit attributable to members of Stock Conversion 5,178 3,724

Earnings per share 9,88p 7,11p

Interim Dividend per share 2.5p 2.0p

Times covered 3.9 3.5

\*This figure includes approximately £375,000 of prior years' income arising from rent reviews agreed after the due date.

Copy of the full Interim statement may be obtained from the Secretary.

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Up to 150

● Christmas gifts,  
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## 1984: but with no thanks to Orwell

## THE YEAR

By Bill Johnstone  
Technology Correspondent

The year never lived up to its Orwellian promise. Television did take some faltering steps towards Big Brother through the auspices of the European Commission which officially recognized that satellite television, through which programmes would be beamed across national boundaries, was no longer a promise but a reality.

That recognition meant that television would not in the future be controlled by the political forces of which George Orwell was so fearful. That acknowledgement was made in the summer by the commission, through the publication of a Green Paper, and could prove the most significant influence on the Information Technology industry between now and 2004.

Satellites had been in the news at the beginning of the year. British insurance brokers, who in January had been making plans to provide the insurance for £7,000 million worth of satellites and space craft due for launching during the year, were licking their wounds by the spring when an abortive space shuttle mission was to lose two communication satellites.

Two separate amounts totalling £75 million comprised London's share of the compensation to be paid to the owners of the satellites. Westar 6, owned by Western Union with an insurance cover of \$104 million - 50 per cent of which was insured in London - was the first shock in the February mission.

Within two days the Indonesian government satellite-Palapa B2 was lost. It had been re-insured abroad for \$75 million, of which nearly two thirds was placed in London. The school had a poor start but a happy ending.

Both satellites were recovered in the autumn by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) which was keen to recover

lost pride as it was the lost satellites. While the European Commission was prepared to accept that satellite television was inevitable, the British were not convinced. For most of the year the BBC and then later the independent television companies with industrial partners, were to vacillate over the commercial viability of a Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS). The original partnership of the BBC and the satellite consortium British Aerospace, Marconi and British Telecom, had been inspired by a government keen on promoting British industry but having little idea how to do it.

It became clear that the preferred satellite design on commercial grounds would be American. If the last 12 months is to be followed by another year of the same indecision France, Germany, Luxembourg and even Ireland will have their satellites in orbit well before the British.

The Green Paper *Television Across Frontiers* highlighted the spirit of the Treaty of Rome which was to encourage "cross-border" transfers of broadcasts and data. Every member of the Community, at least in theory,

had the right to have free access. Commenting on the Green Paper the EEC had said about television: "As one of the key media in the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions, television can play an important role in nurturing Europeans' awareness of their cultural and historical heritage."

Worthy sentiments indeed but the issues will need to be addressed by the member states in 1985 as a matter of urgency. The Commission had stressed that the Green Paper was but a political smokescreen. Everyone on the IT industry knows that the questions raised by the paper must not only be addressed but solved.

It was the pressure from the Commission which was also instrumental in forcing Britain to modernize its laws on computer data

Such legislation had been discussed in Britain for about 20 years but governments of both right and left had been reluctant to legislate. The Commission however was determined to ensure that computer data - of a sensitive nature - would be afforded the same protection in each of its member states. Such legislation would ensure that the transfer of information across state borders would be simple - a fundamental ingredient in the information technology society of this decade.

Conferences, seminars and presentations have been organized throughout the year to educate businesses on the Data Protection Act and the legality of their controls on data. This year they will really need to become expert or they will find themselves no matter how innocent, on the wrong side of the law.

But two themes were to dominate the IT industry during 1984: the privatization of British Telecom and the growing skills shortage. A 16-man committee fed by junior industry minister Mr John Butcher attempted to help. Its first report published in July tried to steer a smooth passage around industry and the education establishment.

It called for a marriage between industry and academia. John Butcher was reluctant to offend any party and made it clear on the publication of his paper that it was to be the basis for discussion. The truth is that the educational establishment has been reluctant to change its methods of working, respond positively to the needs of modern society and recognize the value of numeracy. Industry is equally to blame. It had for decades treated its engineers almost with contempt and has reserved its harshest rewards for non-technical middle management and marketers.

It has also been reluctant to accept its responsibilities to train and educate its staff. It usually com-

pained about academia while using every excuse not to invest in its own personnel.

About ten industrialists have got together to provide most of the funding for a £10 million Institute of Technology, based in Milton Keynes. Graduate, post graduate and conversion courses will be offered next year, a move which may revolutionize the IT sector and the way it responds to education. It is but one project. There must be more. Britain in 1985 will have an even greater IT deficit than the £2,000 million one which it accumulated this year.

But the privatization of British Telecom and its growing stature in the IT industry was one of the major debating points in 1984. There were those who were fearful that a privatised British Telecom would have too much influence on the IT sector. Proponents of that view were to thwart the corporation's ambitions in the latter part of the year to go into partnership with IBM to offer a computer data management network.

There were those who believe that a multinational British Telecom will put the UK on the international IT map and that privatization will help to achieve that end.

The flotation of British Telecom was extremely successful and surprised even the most optimistic supporters of privatization. Previous attempts to sell off other government stock had not had the same response, but British Telecom was to prove different. There are many who were fearful of a shareholder register that was measured in hundreds of thousands if not millions. There were others who believed that a new breed of capitalist-socialists was about to be born.

Both supporters and opponents recognize the big brother status of British Telecom. Maybe Orwell had it right after all.



Headlines of the year

## Is it really nix to Unix?

By Kevan Pearson

With IBM expected to launch a version of the Unix operating system for its mainframes early next year, a US report predicts a limited future for the system.

International Research Development, a research organization predicts that Unix will not penetrate the commercial market widely. At best, says the company, Unix will remain a "niche standard" in the markets in which it already enjoys a considerable amount of success, such as education and science and engineering.

IBM has put Unix on several of its existing systems, such as the PC and specialist scientific system the System 9000, available only in the US. But it has emphasized that these implementations are clearly aimed for the education and scientific markets, as the company explained when it launched the PC/AT with Xenix, a Unix-based system, in the UK in

September. Putting Unix on the company's mainframes is likely to be an extension of this policy.

It will probably be more interesting to look at the traditional mainframe market. In this market, says IRD, the traditional equipment manufacturers, such as Hewlett-Packard, are not likely to make a significant contribution.

IBM's problems in the Unix market improved this year, according to the last few reports.

It used to be that Unix was a computer superuser's operating system, a four-to-one-one system, with advantages over the mainframe. The margin is now so narrow, however, less, says IRD, that it is time for computer manufacturers to take a look at Unix.

There is likely to be more competition in this area, as Amdahl, a leading superuser mainframe computer manufacturer of running Unix software, also has a version of Unix for its mainframes. And American

## UK events

CADCAM International Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 8-10 (01-837 3699). Which Computer? NEC, Birmingham, January 15-18 (01-891 5051). Micro Show, Leisure Centre, Swansea, January 17-20 (0202 2202).

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## CRICKET: VICTORY IN SECOND TEST AS INDIA SUCCUMB TO TWO WILY SPINNERS



## England end their longest drought

From Richard Streeton, Delhi

England's barren period without a victory ended after a gripping day's play here yesterday when they won the second Test match by eight wickets. India's batsmen succumbed to the wiles of Edmonds and Pocock, who shared the last eight wickets between them, and England were left with only 125 to make. Their win ended a sequence of 13 Tests without success, the worst in their history, and levelled the five-match series 1-1.

India were dismissed in their second innings for 235 with only Shastri, who fought hard for two hours and a half, showing any determination in the later stages. India lost their last six wickets for 31 runs after lunch in 90 minutes, with Paul and Kapil Dev, in particular, playing strokes unworthy of their pedigree. It was an unexpectedly abrupt surrender by a side supposedly trying to force a draw.

Other than changing ends, Edmonds bowled without a break and his figures yesterday were 31-19-34, a triumph for skilful flight and subtle changes of pace. Right to the end the bounce was uneven but the pitch never deteriorated as much as expected and there was only slow turn available to the spinners. Pocock, too, showed stamina as well as guile as he bowled 25.4 overs yesterday and took four for 45. In this game Edmonds and Pocock have looked far better bowlers than their Indian counterparts. England's last Test win was at

Trent Bridge against New Zealand in August, 1983. This was their ninth overseas Test since their last win abroad, against Australia in December 1982. And to complete what has been a grisly saga, this was Gower's first win in 11 Tests as England captain. Gower afterwards admitted that it was "a helluva good feeling" to have won at last. "We made the runs in this match that we should have made in Bombay," he said.

He singled out Robinson for his monumental innings of 160. Robinson, he said, had brought the composure and concentration which earned him runs in county cricket into the Test game. "He was a marvellous effort on his first tour and one which is acknowledged to be a difficult one," Gower said. "He was no stage in the game when he felt England were going to win until the last Indian wicket had fallen. "Our spinners kept going through thick and thin with fortunes up and down. Wickets kept coming at the right time for us."

With tea taken between the innings, England had 59 minutes and 20 overs to reach their last target. To seasoned professionals it was a doodle compared with many a third-day run chase undertaken in the championship and England won 8.2 overs in hand. Gavaskar conceded when the score was 117 and came on to bowl himself. Lamb on-drove him for six and a lofted four over mid-on ended the game.

### India drop Kapil Dev

Delhi (Agencies) — India have taken their former captain, Kapil Dev, for the first time. Hours after India were beaten here yesterday by England in their Test at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, Kapil Dev, aged 25, became national hero after he led India to victory in the World Cup in England last year. His omission from the Test and the one-day international at Cuttack on December 27 — means he is out of the squad for the first time in the 66 Tests India have played since he made his debut in Pakistan in the 1978-79 series.

He became the youngest cricketer in Test history to complete the double of 1,000 runs and 100

wickets when he accomplished the feat 27 days after his 21st birthday.

Indian cricket officials would not comment on reasons for his omission, but he is reported to have had a heated argument with his captain, Sanjay Gavaskar, over his omission of throwing his wicket away. He came in with India struggling in a difficult position — 96 runs ahead and five wickets left. He lifted the second delivery he faced for a six, but was caught at extra cover by Lamb when he tried to repeat the stroke off the next ball, staking only seven runs.

Kapil Dev replaced Gavaskar as India's captain after a disastrous tour of Pakistan in 1982-83.

At the start Edmonds opened the bowling with Cowans and drew first blood in the day's second over when Amarnath played down the wrong line and had his off stump clipped. India, resuming at 128 for two, were only 17 ahead and needed runs as well as for their batsmen. Patil hit two leg-side fours against Cowans and had the fast bowler give Gavaskar a torrid time, twice hitting him on the body. No batsman can be more obdurate than Gavaskar when necessary and from the way he grimly played every ball, it seemed that he would be there all day.

Gavaskar, though, having added 14 in 70 minutes, was suddenly bowled by Pocock, perhaps the most significant ball Pocock managed all day. Gavaskar, a little surprisingly, was making room to square cut but the ball bounced more than usual and his middle stump was knocked back. Shastri can bat defensively and gave England little hope from the moment he arrived but a rearguard action is

England dressing room, apparently, there was a communal discussion whether the new ball, which was now available, should be taken and the decision was quickly justified.

Fifteen minutes after lunch India's slump began when, in successive overs, Patil and Kapil Dev were out to dreadfully rash strokes. Patil tried to pull Edmonds over mid-wicket but mistimed the stroke and Lamb held the catch there. Kapil Dev on-drive Pocock for six and next ball was caught at deep mid-off trying for another big hit. Patil had been in two hours and had reluctantly treated the spinners with respect. Kapil Dev's performance was a poor piece of cricket.

When Gackwind edged a catch behind off Edmonds, India had lost three wickets in five overs. They were 105 runs on and three hours remained, with the match for the first time definitely tilting towards England. Kirmani was the next obstacle to be removed and

Edmonds, a bowler to England little hope from the moment he arrived but a rearguard action is

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When Gackwind edged a catch behind off Edmonds, India had lost three wickets in five overs. They were 105 runs on and three hours remained, with the match for the first time definitely tilting towards England. Kirmani was the next obstacle to be removed and

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# Timurs Double to maintain Forster's form

By Mandarin

Tim Forster, in marvellous form at Towcester on Saturday with a 136-1 treble again looks the trainer to follow at Ludlow this afternoon. Co Member is expected to make his stamina and experience tell against that useful novice. Play The Knave, in the Vintage Port Handicap Chase and Timurs Double is napped to complete a double for the Letcombe Bassett trainer in the Rum Punch Novices' Hurdle.

Timurs Double was a fair performer on the Flat when with Fulke Johnson Houghton, winning at Haydock Park in May and running well in good company on a number of other occasions. He was sufficiently well thought of by connections to take his place in the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot, but made no show in that competitive affair.

On his hurdling debut at Newbury last month, Timurs Double made significant late headway to finish third to Against The Grain and Russborough, both of whom had had the benefit of two previous runs over hurdles. That form has worked out well since with Russborough winning easily at Plumpton and Against The Grain chasing home Wing And A Prayer, the Triumph Hurdle favourite, at Cheltenham.

Tinkersfield, who finished seventh at Newbury, more than 20 lengths behind Timurs Double, has also advertised the form by winning at Taunton, but his 7lb penalty for that success gives him little prospect of reversing the Newbury placings with my selection this afternoon.

Play the Knave has been

# Earls Brig remains Chepstow possible

Phil Tuck became the first professional jockey to team up with Earls Brig at Kelso yesterday, and for the first time in three outings, the nine-year-old managed to complete the course.

Earls Brig started at 9-4 on but could finish only second to *Unscrupulous*, Judge, but even before Jenny Pitman and Monica Dickinson, those leading ladies of National Hunt racing, had once again swept aside the male challenge, Georgina Herbert, a 17-year-old girl apprentice, had grasped her chance to put one over on the course.

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Earls Brig was a much stiffer task this afternoon. Not only does he take on experienced handicappers for the first time, but he has to race over three miles, a trip over which he has never won.

Co Member was highly tried last season when he met some outstanding young chasers in Lettoch, Lean Ar Agaibh, Gambir and Mossy Moore. He won twice, including a three-mile chase at Newbury, and shaped well on the latest of his three runs this season when chasing home Glenfox at the Berkshire course last month.

David Gandolfo can round off a good day for Wantage stables by winning the second division of the Burgundy Novices' Chase with Deep Moppy while Grims, who had a winning debut over fences in the first division.

Deep Moppy runs at Ludlow in preference to the Aldington Novices' Chase at Folkestone, and that looks a wise move with Some Shot and the Foodbroker both declared at the Kent course. Some Shot was a clear winner from Mount Harvard, Roman Son and Pebble Island at Warwick and should have a fitness edge over The Foodbroker, who has not run since chasing home Bright Morning at Windsor six weeks ago.

Bob Champion sets a pose by saddling Eggng and Three Chances in the Heathfield Handicap Chase but preference is for the latter, who ran well until falling at Wolverhampton last month and then beat Veleno in a slightly better race than today's at Nottingham.

Earls Brig is 5-1 favourite from 6-1 with Mecca for Saturday's Welsh National.

# Male pride takes another pounding

By John Karter

It was ladies first, the other lot a poor second at wet and windy Leicestershire yesterday. And even before Jenny Pitman and Monica Dickinson, those leading ladies of National Hunt racing, had once again swept aside the male challenge, Georgina Herbert, a 17-year-old girl apprentice, had grasped her chance to put one over on the course.

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# O'Brien a pioneer of Turf's new era

By Michael Seely

Vincent O'Brien's Great Horses, by Ivor Herbert and Jacqueline O'Brien (Pelham Books, £25).

This deceptively simple title of a book about the 16 best horses trained by Vincent O'Brien conceals the authoritativeness and scope of the author's latest work, which has been written in collaboration with the trainer's wife, Jacqueline.

From 1948, the season in which

O'Brien won his first Cheltenham Gold Cup with *Cottage Rake*, until 1984 when the quietly-spoken Irish genius captured his 38th classic with *El Gran Senor* in the 2000 Guineas, the book covers a span of 36 years.

This period has seen a dramatic reversal of the trend which saw the best European blood lines vanishing to the United States. Nowadays the highest class racing is once again seen in Ireland. Frankel, and particularly, *Emperor Charlie*, look leaden-footed as he gained a length in the air at several furlongs.

An exciting future seems assured for Duesenberg, a remark that also applies to Mrs Dickinson's six-year-old. Midsummer Special is also through fit enough to win.

Midsummer Special is in an apparently impossible position at half-way to challenge Bucks Green at the last fence. Although he almost uprooted that obstacle, Midsummer Special hardly lost any impetus and, coming clear on the run-in, he left the indelible impression that we will be hearing a lot more of him during the coming months.

## Course specialists

**FOLKESTONE**  
TRAINERS: P. Mitchell 5 winners from 26 starts; R. H. Smith 4-1-2 from 21; 19-0%\*  
J. Goldfarb 12 from 64; 18-0%\*

**JOCKEYS:** R. Rose 8 winners from 51 starts; 15-7%; A. Walker 6 from 16; 10-0%\*  
G. Goldsmith 6 from 16; 10-0%\*

**LUDLOW**  
TRAINERS: A. V. Smith 5 winners from 12 starts; 28-0%\*; J. Edwards 7 from 73; 24-4%; Mrs M. Rennell 9 from 51; 17-0%\*

**JOCKEYS:** 5 Mareshead 14 winners from 77 starts; 18-2%; 7 Soudance 30 from 118; 18-9%; R. Walker 7 from 46; 15-0%\*

## Folkestone inspection

Toddy's meeting at Folkestone hinges on a 3am inspection.

**Vincent O'Brien: architect of Anglo-Irish revival**

O'Brien's summing up of his great horses is as follows: "I would have to rate Nijinsky first. Him or Sir Ivor. For brilliance, Nijinsky. For toughness, Sir Ivor. Or Golden Fleece, for he was never beaten."

The vendors had entered into a written contract for the sale of part of their estate to the purchaser for £125,000 on December 22, 1982. On the same day they granted an option to the purchaser for him to buy the rest of the estate for £115,000 (the option document), handwritten on a sheet of writing paper headed with the address and telephone number of the estate and signed by them.

That document gave the purchaser an option to buy until January 15, 1983, to be completed on or before March 31, 1983. On January 14, 1983, the purchaser telephoned the vendors' solicitor (William Atwood & Son) to say he was exercising the option.

However, on January 17, the vendors' solicitor received a letter from the purchaser dated January 14 confirming his taking up the option but subject to a condition *inter alia* postponing a completion until May 1, 1983.

On its receipt, the vendors' solicitor advised the purchaser's solicitor by telephone on January 17 that the option must be exercised on the written terms or not at all, and in the afternoon of the same day the purchaser's solicitor informed the vendors' solicitor by telephone that the purchaser unconditionally exercised the option.

Letters were then written by both solicitors to each other on January 17. They created a stand-off.

The vendor's solicitor then dispatched his letter before hearing from the purchaser's solicitor that the purchaser had decided to exercise the option unconditionally because he did not mention that fact, confining himself to giving the purchaser an extension of 48 hours; by enclosing a copy of the purchaser's letter of January 14; and to repeating what he had told the purchaser's solicitor on the telephone.

Disputes arose, and a writ was issued on January 17, 1983, the action being tried by Mr Justice Gouling, who delivered judgment on May 4, 1984. He granted the option document; the purchaser's letter of January 14 and both solicitors' letters dated January 17.

It was not apparent that the offer that was thereby accepted was contained in anything which could be described as a letter and it would be a plain misuse of language to describe the option document as a letter.

In any case the irrevocable offer it contained lapsed on January 15.

The purchaser's conditional acceptance of that offer by his letter of January 14 was ineffective or at most acted as a counter offer which was rejected by telephone on the morning of January 17.

The offer that was accepted was the offer then made by the vendors' solicitor orally on January 17, albeit it referred to the option document.

The vendor's solicitor's letter of January 17 did not form part of the offer, it merely confirmed that the oral offer was to be taken by the purchaser's solicitor after the contract had been concluded by the posting of the latter's letter.

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There is an account of the career of the eccentric but gifted Italian cavalry officer, Fredrico Tesio, who bred Neero and Ribol as well as Temerano and Donatello II. This is a scholarly work which has been researched with the thoroughness that is the author's own particular trademark.

On and Off The Rails, The Best of Brough Scott (Gollancz, £25.95).

Through a cleverly-linked series of Sunday Times articles, this outstanding book is like a mirror to the "great triviality" of Philip Bull's once-dramatised racing.

The sport is a caricature of real life, with triumph and disaster, pain and pleasure inextricably mixed and the one often following hard on the heels of the other. Scott describes them all in his crisp and economical prose.

What could be more effective than his ad-libbed piece on the happenings at Newcastle in November 1983: "Tragedy came brutally out of the cupboard at Newcastle yesterday. Ekblad, the best horse in the north, smashed his shoulder when he fell and had to be shot just as he was challenging for the lead in the Fighting Fifth Handicap".

Scott has no equal as a chronicler of racing heroes, both equine and human.

No Secret So Close, a biography of Bruce Hobbs by Tim Fitzgerald-Parker (Pelham Books, £10.95).

It is a remarkable book, full of the headlines which bring British racing to life.

Mr Justice Gouling held that the provision of section 22 of the Act did not itself a letter.

The commissioners holding that provision exempted the taxpayer from the tax in respect of the £5,000, rejected the Crown's argument that the word "abandonment" described only the extinction of an option by lapse of time. They were right to do so.

Examination of paragraph 14 yielded no compelling reason for construing "abandonment" in any particular way. However, an alternative argument now raised by the Crown threw a new light on paragraph 14 that resolved the difficulty. It involved the provisions of section 22(3) and 33(3) of the Act.

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